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PETA

Weekend



Martha Stewart's jail time ends this weekend.

Check-Out Time: A W.Va. town gets ready for a letdown as Martha leaves prison | **4**

Do or Die Time:

Maryland's hopes rest on a win vs. Va. Tech

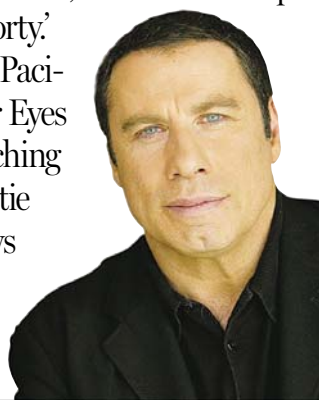
| **24**



ENTERTAINMENT

Chili Today: *John Travolta* stars in 'Be Cool,' a lukewarm sequel to 'Get Shorty.' Also, 'The Pacifier'; 'Their Eyes Were Watching God'; Kirstie Alley chews the fat.

>> **13-23**



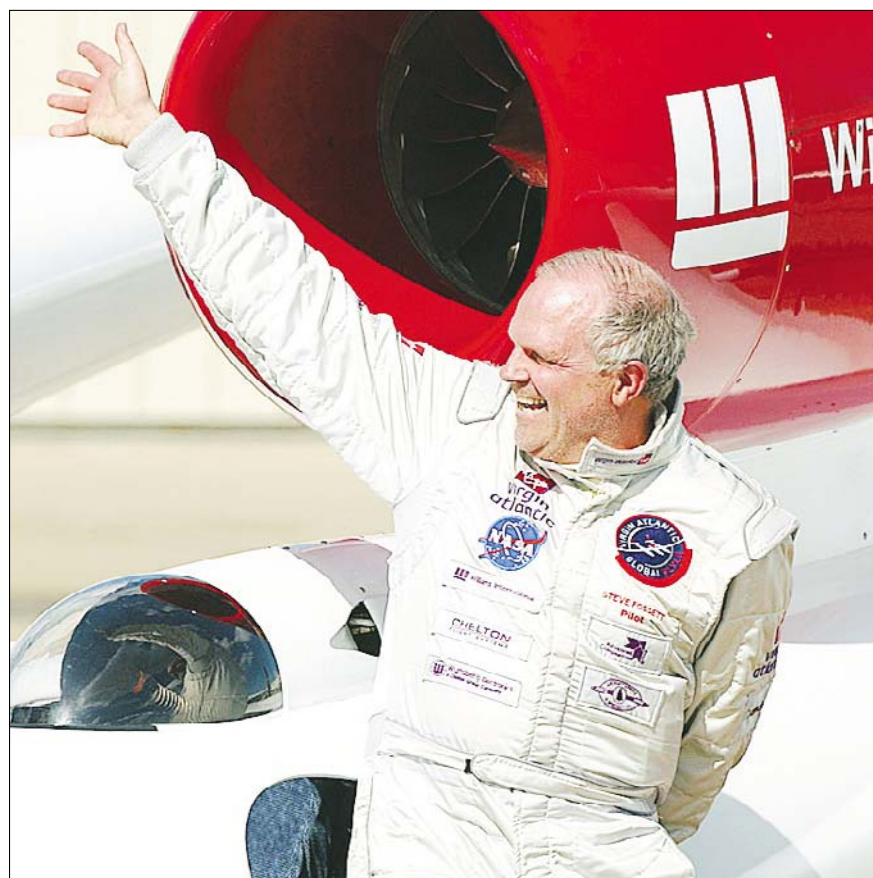
Weather > Cloudy



44 | 32

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 33

FLIGHT | ROUND TRIP INTO HISTORY



SOLITARY MAN: Pilot Steve Fossett waves Thursday after completing the first solo, nonstop round-the-world flight without refueling. Fossett took off Feb. 28 from an airport in Salina, Kan., and landed safely at the same airport 67 hours later. **Round 2:** Fossett's been around before | **Page 4**

Fed Touts National Sales Tax

Hybrid system could spark economy, Greenspan says

WASHINGTON | Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Thursday that a new consumption tax — such as a national sales tax — could spark the economy as a partial replacement for income taxes.

Greenspan cautioned that there would be both political and administrative difficulties in moving toward a new national tax system. Simplification is needed, perhaps a hybrid between consumption taxes and income taxes, he told the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform.

Moving to a pure consumption tax would arouse such opposition as to make the idea "infeasible," he said.



Greenspan

Democrats raised alarm about potentially crippling taxes on food and medicine when the possibility of a national sales tax came up last fall during the presidential election. Addressing concerns about increased taxes on necessities like food, Greenspan said policy-makers could design a consumption tax that would exclude products mostly consumed by the poor.

The panel's vice chairman, former Sen. John Breaux, D-La., said it was important that the Fed chief asserted income and consumption taxes could work together.

"He said you could do both," Breaux said. "I don't think he endorsed it, but his saying that it can work, like many other countries have done, I think was a very significant statement." MARY DALRYMPLE (AP)

Blossoms' Peak Expected on Cue

WASHINGTON | The cherry trees circling the Tidal Basin should be bursting with pink and white blossoms in time for this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival, a National Park Service spokesman said Thursday.

On a windy, chilly morning, officials gathered in a hotel to announce their prediction for when the famed trees will be at their peak. Rob DeFeo, the park service's chief horticulturist, said 70 percent of the

trees should be in full flower between April 4 and 9, though a sudden warming trend might speed up the process.

The timing could be ideal for the April 9 Cherry Blossom parade on Constitution Avenue — one of the most anticipated events of this year's festivities, March 26 through April 10.

This year's festival celebrates the 93rd anniversary of the gift of the trees from Japan. (AP)

SENSES | That Sounds Tasty A Swiss musician has been identified as the first-known person with the ability to taste musical intervals. University of Zurich scientists, in a study reported in the journal *Nature*, said the 27-year-old woman's sense of hearing and sense of



taste are linked. A major sixth tastes like low-fat cream to her, while a minor sixth is more full-fat cream. That's not all: Tones also cause an involuntary display of colors in her sight. Scientists said her ability to identify intervals by taste is perfect. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

eyeOpeners

DEATH

A Truly Shocking Recovery

An Atlanta hospital's emergency department made history by bringing a man back from the dead 100 times on November 20, WXIA-TV reported Wednesday. Jim McClatchey was in cardiac arrest when he arrived at Piedmont Hospital. When doctors shocked his heart to restart it, he'd start to wake up—and his heart would stop again. In the first hour, McClatchey's



heart stopped 50 times. Sometimes he was conscious enough to see his own heart monitor. In the end, he died 100 times and was shocked so frequently that he sustained second-degree burns on his chest. McClatchey survived, and his doctors plan to share the story with other heart specialists in hopes it will lead to advances in the treatment of cardiac arrest. "I really have been given a great gift," said McClatchey. "I've had an experience that very few people get to have." (EXPRESS)

LAWS

Anti-Garfish Groups Outraged

After hooking a long, skinny, ugly fish known as a garfish, Alabama fisher-

men may curse and throw it back in the water, when actually, according to a 1943 state law, they are required to kill it. But maybe not for too much longer: the Alabama House passed a bill Tuesday to repeal the law, part of bill sponsor

CRIME

Conclusion: Jail, Bad

A man who robbed a bank in Kansas City—apparently with the intention of getting caught—told the judge who gave him a nine-year term Tuesday that prison would help him continue his study of criminal behavior. "There are some things about crime you can't understand unless you get into the belly of the beast," said John Stanley, who's given lectures on crime all over the world. He's done time since the 1960s for various non-violent property crimes and hosted "Crime Wise with John Stanley," a radio show. "I've been around this business for a long time," said the judge. "But you've shown me something new." (AP)



MAURILIO CHELI/AP

AGE

Life Goes On

A Brazilian record-keeping organization is challenging Guinness' Book of World Records listing of 113-year-old Hendrikje Van Andel-Schipper as the world's oldest woman, claiming that Maria Olivia da Silva (above), of Astorga, Brazil, just recently celebrated her 125th birthday. A Guinness spokesperson said the organization was looking through its records and may have a statement Friday. (AP)

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RED HOT: Zippo Manufacturing Co., which sold 14 million brass-and-chrome lighters last year, says an upcoming federal ban on butane, electric and absorbed fuel lighters aboard aircraft and behind airport security gates could cut its sales by up to 30 percent.



Nation

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Frist Changes Gears on Social Security Timetable

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Thursday that Congress must confront Social Security's problems this year, dialing back comments earlier in the week that action might have to wait. "We need to do it this year. Not the next year," Frist said Thursday. Two days ago, Frist noted intense Democratic opposition and suggested he might not be able to move a bill to the Senate floor this year, as Bush has pushed for. (AP)

SANTA MARIA, CALIF.

Sister of Jackson's Accuser Takes Witness Stand in Trial

The teenage sister of Michael Jackson's accuser told jurors about a series of unusual events that unfolded around the time of the alleged abuse, including a sudden trip in which the family was whisked away to Miami. The testimony Thursday was elicited to support allegations that the singer conspired to hold the accuser's family captive to get them to rebut a documentary in which Jackson said he allowed boys to sleep in his bed. (AP)

PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Probe of Fatal Nightclub Fire Elicits Push for New Rules

Fire-safety experts investigating the 2003 nightclub blaze that killed 100 people recommended Thursday that sprinklers be required in such venues and inspections be improved to try to prevent similar tragedies. The National Institute of Standards and Technology also said nightclubs should have to follow tighter rules on using flammable materials and improve exits. (AP)

HEARSAY | ENDINGS

"They're very finicky. It could have been a change in the water. You have no idea."

—BOB WHOLEY, PITTSBURGH, PA.
ON THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF "BUBBA," A 22-POUND LOBSTER WHO DIED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, ABOUT A DAY AFTER BEING MOVED FROM A FISH MARKET TO A ZOO

Bush: Bin Laden Hunt a 'Challenge'

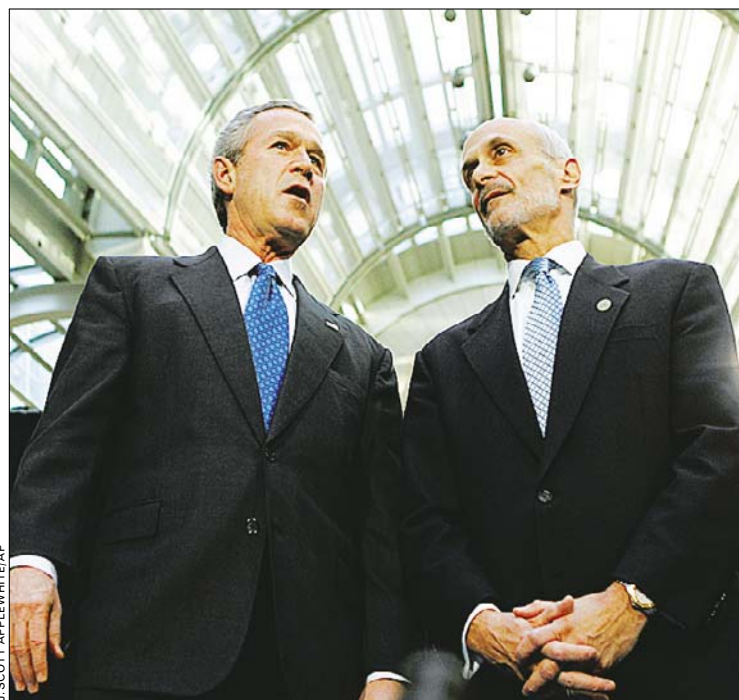
President makes new reference to search for elusive al Qaeda leader

WASHINGTON | President Bush made a rare mention of Osama bin Laden on Thursday, calling efforts to block the terrorist leader's hope of attacking America again "the greatest challenge of our day."

Bush insisted the so-far unsuccessful hunt for the al Qaeda founder is "keeping the pressure on."

The White House has sought to play down the significance of bin Laden to the global anti-terror battle, since the trail has gone cold on him more than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. As a result, Bush hardly ever utters the name of the man he once declared wanted "dead or alive."

But bin Laden made the headlines again this week, as officials said that he has enlisted the help of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the top al Qaeda figure in Iraq, to plan new attacks inside the United States.



SWORN IN: President Bush, left, talks with new Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff during his swearing-in ceremony in Washington on Thursday.

At the ceremonial swearing-in for the new secretary of the Department of Homeland Security,

Michael Chertoff, Bush confirmed that contact between bin Laden and al-Zarqawi.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

→ **President Bush** promised CIA employees on Thursday they would retain an "incredibly vital" role in the nation's security despite a reorganization that diminishes the agency's dominance of the intelligence community. "I know there's some uncertainty about what this reform means to the people of the CIA. And I wanted to assure them that the reforms will strengthen their efforts and make it easier for them to do their job, not harder," Bush told reporters during a visit to the spy agency. (AP)

"Bin Laden's message is a telling reminder that al Qaeda still hopes to attack us on our own soil," he said in Washington.

Bush marked progress in other areas of protecting the nation from attack, saying that the campaign against terrorist cells is succeeding and that "extraordinary measures" have been taken to beef up domestic protection. DEB RIECHMANN (AP)

SEA LIFE | HOME FREE



RESCUED: Scientists and animal care technicians return one of three rough-toothed dolphins to the ocean on Thursday near Fort Pierce, Fla., after several of the animals became stranded on sandbars and in a nearby canal.

Hale Denies Role in Ill. Murders of Judge's Kin

CHICAGO | Jailed white supremacist Matthew Hale said Thursday the slaying of a federal judge's husband and elderly mother was a "heinous crime" that "only an idiot" would think he ordered, according to a statement released by his mother.

"There is no way that any supporter of mine could commit such a heinous crime," Hale said in the statement. "I totally condemn it and I want the perpetrator caught and prosecuted."

The shootings at U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow's home came a month before Hale was to be sentenced by another judge for trying to have Lefkow

killed. In a trademark dispute presided over by Lefkow, she had ordered Hale to change the name of his group.

Lefkow arrived home after work Monday to find the bodies of her husband, Michael Lefkow, 64, and her mother, Donna Humphrey, 89, in the basement. They had been shot to death.

Lefkow vowed to return to the bench. "Nobody is going to intimidate me off my duty," she told the Chicago Sun-Times in an interview published Thursday. (AP)



Hale



BY THE NUMBERS: The public art installation "The Gates" created a boom for New York City, with the city getting a \$254 million boost to its economy. It drew an estimated 4 million visitors to the park, including 1.5 million out-of-towners, between Feb. 12-27. In midtown, hotel occupancy was 87 percent during that period compared to 73 percent last February. (AP)

Nation



EARLIEST DECISION: A computer hacker gained access to internal admissions records at Harvard and other top business schools and proceeded to help applicants log on to try to learn their fates weeks ahead of schedule, officials said Thursday.

Fossett Breaks Solo Flight Record

U.S. adventurer first to fly around the world alone without stopping

SALINA, KAN. | Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett on Thursday became the first person to fly around the world solo without stopping or refueling — 67 hours and 23,000 miles after taking off in his spindly-looking, experimental jet.

“That was something I wanted to do for a long time, a major ambition,” a jubilant Fossett said immediately after emerging from the custom-built GlobalFlyer.

An equally happy Sir Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic founder who financed the flight, grabbed a bottle of champagne from Fossett, shook it up, and sprayed down his pilot and longtime friend. Fossett then guzzled from the bottle in celebration.

Fossett, 60, already holds the record for flying solo around the globe in a balloon. He failed five times before successfully completing that flight, but needed just one try to make the trip in a plane. This latest adventure gives Fossett yet another aviation record, adding to the many he holds as a balloonist, pilot and sailor.

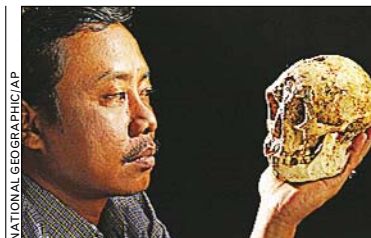


Pilot Steve Fossett gets a celebratory champagne spray from Sir Richard Branson after landing in Salina, Kan.

But there was some doubt if Fossett would make it back to Salina. Fuel sensors in the custom-built plane's 13 tanks differed from readings of how quickly its single jet engine was burning fuel, forcing Fossett's crew to assume that 2,600 pounds of the original 18,100 pounds of fuel “disappeared.”

It was not clear whether there was a leak or just a problem with the sensors, Fossett's team said.

Fossett's GlobalFlyer was designed by the same engineer who came up with the Voyager aircraft that first completed the around-the-world trip 19 years ago with two pilots aboard. JOHN MILBURN (AP)



Scientists think the “Hobbit” ancestor existed as recently as 13,000 years ago.

New Proof Of ‘Hobbit’ Community

Scientists working with powerful imaging computers say the spectacular “Hobbit” fossil recently discovered in Indonesia had distinctive brain features that could justify its classification as a separate — and tiny — human ancestor.

The new report, published Thursday in the online journal Science Express, seems to support the idea of a sophisticated human dwarf species marooned for eons while modern man proliferated.

The scientists said the model shows that the 3-foot specimen, nicknamed Hobbit, had a brain unlike anything they had seen before in the human lineage.

These brain features coincide with physical evidence of advanced behaviors, such as the use of stone tools, which were found with the bones on the remote island of Flores. To some, this suggests a society of tiny hunters flourished on the island for millennia at a time when modern humans ruled the planet. (AP)

Today in The Washington Post

Unlikely Hero: To one small N.J. community, popular store owner Tao “Andy” Lin is a freedom fighter for working to smuggle over relatives from China. | *A Section*

Therapy Thwarted: The FDA has suspended several U.S. gene therapy experiments after a third child who had the therapy in France developed cancer. | *A Section*

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PARTING WAYS: Alderson, W.Va., store owner Betty Alderson has a new batch of items dedicated to the release of the town's favorite convicted felon, Martha Stewart.

W. Va. Residents Ready To Bid Stewart Farewell

ALDERSON, W. VA. | The commemorative T-shirts and mugs have been printed up and the Dinner Bell restaurant is cooking up some Martha Stewart Swedish Meatballs as Alderson gets ready to say goodbye to its favorite convicted felon.

Since Stewart entered the Alderson Federal Women's Prison on Oct. 8, the town has seen a long line of visitors make the drive to see where the celebrity homemaker spent five months locked up for her part in a stock scandal.

That comes to an end as early as Friday. The 63-year-old is set to be released to begin serving the next phase of her sentence, five months under house arrest at her \$16 million Bedford, New York, estate.

“Alderson needed an economic boost,” said Betty Alderson, who has sold more than 1,300 “West Virginia Living, It's a Good Thing,” T-shirts.

At \$17 each, the shirts helped pay last fall's bills, the Alderson Store owner added. “Every business in town profited,” she said. (AP)

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World



SIZE MATTERS: An error at the new entrance to the National Police headquarters in Sweden, with a built-in scale designed to allow one person in at a time, is causing officers of more than 230 pounds to get a recorded message: "Stop! One at a time!"

Iraqi Police in Crosshairs

Car bombs kill 6 as U.S. military deaths in Iraq top 1,500

BAGHDAD | Car bombs killed six policemen and wounded 15 in new attacks on Iraq's security services Thursday as political factions wrangled over putting together a government.

The Shiite Muslim-dominated United Iraqi Alliance and a Kurdish coalition, which emerged from the Jan. 30 elections with the two biggest blocks of seats in the National Assembly, made little headway in their talks on combining forces to select the leaders of the new government.

Forming Iraq's first democratically elected government is a key step in the U.S. plan for stabilizing the country, and insurgents have been striking at Iraqi police and military forces seeking to undermine the effort.

Two suicide car bombs exploded outside the Interior Ministry in eastern Baghdad and killed at least five policemen and wounded nine, the defense ministry reported.



A man cries for his brother who was seriously injured by one of the two suicide car bombs that exploded outside the Interior Ministry in Baghdad on Thursday.

Another car bomb targeted a police convoy in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of the capital, and killed one Iraqi policeman and a civilian, the U.S. military said. Six officers and 10 civilians were injured.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military

reported that three American soldiers were killed in action Wednesday, pushing the number of U.S. military deaths since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 to 1,502, according to an Associated Press count. **PATRICK QUINN (AP)**

Syrian President Faces Tough Talk From Saudis

CAIRO, EGYPT | Arab leaders grew increasingly impatient at Syria's resistance to a quick, complete withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon, with Saudi leader Crown Prince Abdullah sharply telling Syria's president on Thursday to start getting out soon or face deeper isolation, according to a Saudi official.

The unusually tough message came when Syrian President Bashar Assad met Abdullah in the kingdom's capital, the Saudi official told The Associated Press by telephone from Riyadh. The Syrian leader insisted he is doing everything he can to resolve the problem but that not everything is up to him, the official said.

Saudi Arabia is said to be angry with Damascus over the Feb. 14 assassination of former Lebanese



Crown Prince Abdullah, right, greets Assad at Riyadh's airport on Thursday.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who also held Saudi citizenship and was close to the Saudi royal family.

The Lebanese opposition has blamed Syria and its allied government in Beirut for the killing. Damascus and the Lebanese government deny any role in the assassination. **SALAH NASRAWI (AP)**

HEARSAY | CROSSED

"It's a sad day. ... Today we open the door to kill embryos. What will pass tomorrow?"

—**BRAZILIAN CARDINAL GERALDO MAJELLA** AFTER BRAZIL'S LOWER HOUSE OF CONGRESS VOTED WEDNESDAY TO LEGALIZE STEM CELL RESEARCH USING FROZEN EMBRYOS FROM FERTILITY CLINICS. SUPPORTERS SAY THE RESEARCH MAY HELP TREAT AILMENTS SUCH AS DIABETES AND SPINAL CORD INJURIES.

China Fires Sharp Salvo At U.S. for Rights Report

BEIJING | China fired back Thursday at U.S. criticism of its human rights record, issuing a report that denounced the United States for offenses ranging from allowing crime and poverty at home to abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The report — issued annually in response to the U.S. State Department's global human rights survey — accused the American military of committing "wanton slaughters," killing thousands of civilians and torturing detainees.

"The atrocity of U.S. troops abusing Iraqi POWs exposed the infringement of human rights of foreign nationals by the United States," said the report, released by the press office of China's Cabinet.

The State Department report

released Monday accused China of persecuting dissidents and religious activists, and said prison inmates were tortured and mistreated.

The Chinese report accused the United States of hypocrisy in condemning conditions in other nations while staying silent on its own.

"In 2004, the atrocity of U.S. troops abusing Iraqi POWs exposed the dark side of human rights performance of the United States," the report said. "It is quite ironic that on Feb. 28 of this year, the State Department of the United States once again posed as the 'world human rights police,'" it said. **(AP)**

Backlash: China's sentiments were echoed by a number of countries the U.S. criticized | **Today's Post: Section A**

JAPAN | 9-TO-5 OR BUST



WORK IT: College students get pumped at a job-hunting rally in Tokyo on Thursday. The jobless rate among younger Japanese is about 10 percent. Tokyo recently earmarked \$350 million on programs to help youth find jobs.

U.S.: Indonesian's Sentence Too Lenient

JAKARTA, INDONESIA | The United States denounced a 2 ½-year sentence for a militant Islamic cleric Thursday, calling the Indonesian court's ruling too lenient for the man alleged to head a regional terror group behind a string of deadly bombings.

The verdict by a five-judge panel

could see Abu Baka Bashir freed as early as next year and was another setback for the Indonesian government's campaign to prove the cleric is responsible for attacks in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Officials contend Bashir is the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, an al Qaeda-linked group blamed

for bombings in Bali's nightclub district that killed 202 people in 2002 and a suicide bombing at the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta that killed a dozen in 2003.

The judges convicted Bashir of conspiracy in the Bali attack, but they acquitted him on the more serious charges of planning the Marriott bombing and of inciting followers to stage terrorist attacks. **(AP)**



CELL SILENCE: In Nepal, where about a third of the phone lines are cellular, people have had difficulty adjusting in the month since the King Gyanendra switched off cell service — especially since the wait to get a land line installed can be five years long.

World

In Brief

NORTHERN IRELAND Sinn Fein Suspends 7 Over Alleged Role in IRA Killing

Sinn Fein, the party linked to the Irish Republican Army, announced Thursday it has suspended seven members for alleged involvement in a fight in a Belfast pub that ended with the murder of a Catholic man. The announcement by Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams followed weeks of criticism from the victim's family in Short Strand, a hard-line Catholic neighborhood that is nor-

mally an IRA power base. Police and the McCartney family have said more than 50 witnesses in the pub feared the IRA might kill them if they offered evidence. (AP)

FRANCE 66 Suspects in Massive Pedophilia Ring Go on Trial

France opened one of its biggest criminal trials on Thursday, bringing 66 men and women to court accused of involvement in the rape, sexual abuse and prostitution of 45 children and babies as young as 6 months. Most of the defendants are from low-income households in the working-class Saint-Leonard neigh-

borhood of Angers, 165 miles southwest of Paris. (AP)

SAUDI ARABIA Voters Cast Ballots in 2nd Phase of Nationwide Election

Men in eastern and southern Saudi Arabia turned out by the thousands Thursday, some waiting in line since dawn, to vote in municipal elections they expect to provide their first say in decision-making in this absolute monarchy. It was the second of three phases in the local elections; the first round, in Riyadh, was held Feb. 10. Thursday's vote extended the process to heavily Shiite areas and to the oil-rich but poorly developed



A Saudi prepares to vote in the second stage of the kingdom's nationwide elections in Qatif on Thursday.

Eastern Province. Results of were not expected before Saturday. (AP)

ITALY Cautious Hope the Pope Will Leave Hospital by Easter

Pope John Paul II may be out of the hospital in three weeks and in time for Easter, spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a cautious declaration Thursday, stressing that the frail pontiff's health continues to improve as he leads the Roman Catholic Church from his hospital room. The Vatican said John Paul is eager to leave the hospital but accepts his doctors' advice not to rush his discharge. (AP)

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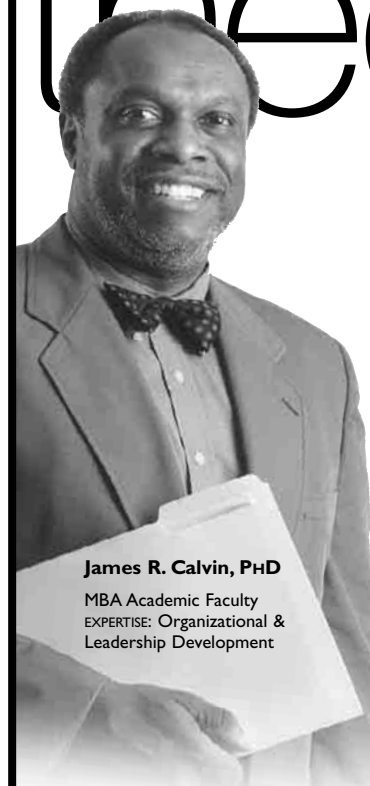
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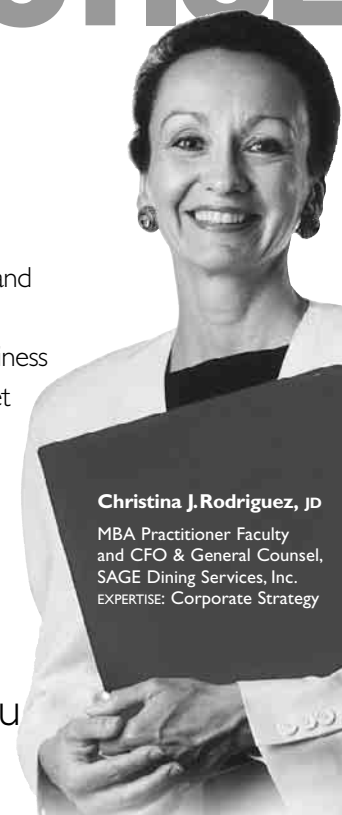
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The number of schools closed in China last year as a declining birthrate led to fewer young students, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. However, 219 high schools and 179 universities were added.

World

INDIA | PROPER CUT OF TEA



HIGH TEA: Workers offer prayers before picking the season's first crop of tea leaves in Singha Jora on Thursday. India's tea industry has been hit in recent years as countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh produce tea at lower costs.

'Honor Attack' Victim to Appeal

Pakistani court orders suspects in rape be freed

MULTAN, PAKISTAN | A Pakistani court Thursday overturned the conviction of a village elder and four other men who had been sentenced to death for allegedly ordering a woman gang-raped as punishment for her brother's illicit sex with a woman, a defense lawyer said.

The rape of the woman in 2002 in a village in central Pakistan made world headlines, and led the government to promise sweeping changes to end centuries of so-called "honor" killings and attacks.

Six men, including village council



Mukhtar Mai reacts to a ruling freeing the men who allegedly ordered her rape.

cil chief Faiz Mastoi, were later convicted and sentenced to death. But the court overturned the sentences

Thursday, citing a lack of evidence. Mastoi and four others were ordered released and the sixth man's death sentence was reduced to life in prison, said Ramzan Joya, a lawyer for the woman.

The woman, Mukhtar Mai, was in court and wept upon hearing the decision. She came forward publicly following the attack and her name has been widely published. She has been honored by human rights groups in Pakistan.

Joya said he would appeal the verdict, and it was not clear if the men would be released immediately. None was present in court. (AP)



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Local



FLAG SALE: A Virginia man who owns a U.S. flag pulled from the damaged Pentagon after the 2001 terrorist attacks is selling it on eBay starting Friday in the hopes it will provide enough money for his family if he doesn't recover from cancer treatments.

Cardozo to Remain Shut After Spill

WASHINGTON | Classes will not resume at Cardozo High School until at least Monday, as officials continue decontaminating a stairwell where droplets of mercury were found this week, Environmental Protection Agency officials said.

At a news conference Thursday in front of the school, the EPA and District of Columbia health officials said they hoped to finish cleaning the potentially dangerous substance

by the end of the day and begin testing the air for vapors on Friday.

"We're working as fast as we can and we're doing it pretty effectively," said on-scene EPA coordinator Nicolas Brescia. He said the agency would need to wait an additional 24 hours to make sure the situation was safe.

Wednesday's spill happened one week after another spill at Cardozo. A handful of small beads of mercury

were found in a heavily traveled area on the third floor — two floors above last week's spill — though Brescia said the exact amount was "unmeasurable."

The metallic element was found on the clothes and shoes of 88 students and staff members. But Thomas Calhoun, the D.C. Health Department's medical adviser, said no one appears to have experienced any health problems. BRIAN WESTLEY (AP)

FISHERSVILLE, VA. | SNOW, MOBILE



UP, UP AND AWAY: A red-tail hawk kicks up snow as it takes flight while hunting alongside Interstate 64 near Fishersville, Va., on Thursday.

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Ballou Student Pleads Guilty To Manslaughter

WASHINGTON | A student accused of fatally shooting a classmate in a Southeast Washington school pleaded guilty Thursday to voluntary manslaughter.

In December, Thomas J. Boykin, 19, was acquitted of first- and second-degree murder charges. But jurors were unable reach a verdict on a manslaughter charge, so Boykin was facing a retrial next month.

Instead, Boykin — dressed in an orange prison jumpsuit —

stood before a District of Columbia Superior Court judge and admitted opening fire in a Ballou High School hallway on Feb. 2, 2004. The shots killed James Richardson, 17, a football star at the school.

Boykin claimed Richardson was bullying him. During last year's trial, Boykin took the stand in his own defense, testifying he thought Richardson was reaching for a gun or knife. Boykin told the court he accidentally shot himself while pulling out his gun, which caused him to panic.

"My son feared for his life, and he didn't mean to hurt anybody," the suspect's mother, Pearl Boykin, said outside court. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, March 3

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	3-7-7 (white)
Evening Lucky Numbers	5-4-7 (white)
Mid-day DC 4	8-3-0-1
Evening DC 4	5-2-8-9
Quick Cash	29-26-39-12-25-31
Hot Five	2-11-22-26-7
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	11-20-21-23-31 (I)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	9-4-3
Evening Pick 3	8-0-4
Mid-day Pick 4	9-7-0-3
Evening Pick 4	0-3-2-7

Match 5	2-6-10-30-32 Bonus: 18
Lotto (Wed.)	8-13-37-41-42-44

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	8-8-9
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	6-7-5
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	1-0-8-8
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	8-1-0-4
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	7-21-22-25-26
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	10-13-23-26-29
Lotto South (Wed.)	15-20-23-25-32-36

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	3-10-18-46-48 (8)
Power Play	5

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

"Clubs ... should be almost off my radar screen. I should not be able to — when you call a club name — be able to picture the location, address and everything else."

— D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey, on WTOP Radio as the city prepared to rule Friday on the fate of troubled Club U



Local

Md. Comptroller Is Hospitalized

ANNAPOLIS, MD. | Comptroller William Donald Schaefer was being treated Thursday at a hospital for a "coronary irregularity," but the condition was not serious and he was expected to be released soon, a spokeswoman for the comptroller said.

"He was feeling a little dizzy on Tuesday and went to see his doctor," said Louise Hayman, the spokeswoman. "What has turned up is some sort of coronary irregularity which apparently caused the dizziness."



William Donald Schaefer was hospitalized after complaining of dizziness.

Hayman said Schaefer, 83, was admitted Tuesday to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and would be released Friday.

Schaefer is also a former governor and mayor of Baltimore. (AP)

Metro to Study Rider Flow

Committee OKs plan to outfit railcars with cameras for research

WASHINGTON | Getting a seat on Metro could be tougher. The transit agency wants to find out if trading seats for space will help people get on and off the subway quicker.

Board members are considering whether to approve a pilot study to redesign 16 cars. The proposed designs would remove between 8

and 24 seats, while adding bars to aid standing passengers.

"A lot of the reaction to this is negative. It is seen as another way to stockpile passengers. It's a way to remove comfort by removing seats," said Planning Committee member Jim Graham.

The committee voted to approve the first phase of the pilot study. It will involve outfitting some railcars with cameras, which will record how long it takes to load and unload passengers during

Wednesday rush hours.

Metro plans to collect data over the summer and present baseline findings to Metro Board members in November. Then they will consider whether to test other subway designs and fund that part of the project.

Metro CEO Richard White said looking at other ways to improve traffic flow is critical. "We have to do something, we can't just sit on our hands," White said.

HEATHER GREENFIELD (AP)

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Money

Bank Settles WorldCom Suit

Bank of America to pay \$460M; investors claimed lax oversight

CHARLOTTE, N.C. | Following the lead of Citigroup, Bank of America on Thursday became the second large U.S. bank to settle claims stemming from a class-action lawsuit by former shareholders of WorldCom.

The decision by Bank of America to pay \$460.5 million to settle the case came as closing arguments were being heard in the criminal trial of former WorldCom chief

executive Bernard Ebbers, who is accused of fraud, conspiracy and other charges in what prosecutors allege was an \$11 billion accounting fraud at the company.

Last year, Citigroup Inc., the nation's largest financial institution, paid \$2.58 billion to settle its share of the class action suit.

The suit was brought against more than a dozen Wall Street firms by individuals and institutions who invested in stocks and bonds before the 2002 collapse of the communications company in an accounting scandal.

The investors claimed the defendants should have been aware of ongoing fraud at WorldCom. WorldCom has since emerged from bankruptcy as MCI Inc.

In a news release, the Charlotte-based Bank of America, the nation's third-largest bank, denied violating any laws, saying it decided to settle the claims "to eliminate the uncertainties, expense and distraction" of further litigation.

Bank spokeswoman Shirley Norton said the company would have no additional comment on the settlement. PAUL NOWELL (AP)

Brazil Wins WTO Ruling On U.S. Cotton Subsidies

GENEVA | The World Trade Organization on Thursday upheld a ruling condemning government help for cotton producers in the United States, saying that many U.S. programs include illegal export subsidies or domestic payments that are higher than permitted by WTO rules.

The WTO appeals body rejected a U.S. attempt to overturn a September 2004 ruling by an independent panel of trade experts, which acted on a complaint from Brazil.

Brazil had alleged that the

United States kept its place as the planet's second-largest cotton grower and largest exporter because the U.S. government paid \$12.5 billion in subsidies to American farmers between August 1999 and July 2003 alone.

The United States had insisted that its payments to farmers are within permitted levels, claiming many are not subsidies as defined by WTO and should have been excluded from calculations of government aid. JONATHAN FOWLER (AP)

Oil Prices Surge, Hit 4-Month High

CHICAGO | Crude-oil futures set a new four-month high Thursday and inched closer to the all-time high, bolstered by concern about tight supplies.

April crude oil at the New York Mercantile Exchange rose 52 cents to settle at \$53.57 a barrel.

Many traders and market participants said fears of a precarious global oil supply-and-demand balance in 2005 boiled over, sending crude prices within cents of their record high of \$55.67 reached on Oct. 25. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Unocal	60.10	+6.60	+12.3
LongDrg	30.25	+3.30	+12.2
KrspKrm	6.12	+.56	+10.1
GlobPwr	10.80	+.85	+8.5
Todco	26.69	+2.05	+8.3

Losers

FleetEn	8.75	-1.16	-11.7
SPX Cp	41.20	-3.82	-8.5
AdvAmer n	14.99	-1.36	-8.3
GraphPk	5.93	-.42	-6.6
CEC Ent s	37.23	-2.24	-5.7

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.50	5.50
Fed Funds close	2.50	2.50
3-month	2.70	2.62
2-year	3.58	3.49
10-year	4.38	4.29
30-year	4.74	4.67

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
AbleEnr	7.31	+1.84	+33.6
PeerlssSys	2.25	+.55	+32.4
drugstre	2.81	+.66	+30.7
Escalon	6.08	+1.34	+28.3
Geores	6.11	+1.02	+20.0

Losers

Cytogen rs	6.26	-6.75	-51.9
EGL Inc	25.00	-6.29	-20.1
AlbnyMlc	8.31	-1.84	-18.1
Viisage	4.50	-.97	-17.7
VelctyE h rs	4.64	-.86	-15.6

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5243	.5228	.5467
Canadian Dollar	1.2440	1.2394	1.3383
European Euro	.7629	.7617	.8207
Japanese Yen	105.31	104.67	110.07
Mexican Peso	11.1040	11.0820	11.0650
Taiwanese Dollar	30.68	30.74	33.37

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+21.06	-9.10	+0.39
+0.19	-0.44	+0.03
10833.03	2058.40	1210.47

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
Allergan	75.09	-.06	-7.4
AstraZen	41.34	+1.38	+13.6
BarrPhm s	48.27	+.81	+6.0
BrMySq	25.06	-.10	-2.2
ForestLab	43.89	+.54	-2.2
Hospira n	31.15	-.71	-7.0
IvaxCp s	15.70	-.15	-.8
JohnJn	66.75	-.21	+5.3
LillyEli	56.15	-.20	-1.1
Merck	31.58	-.02	-1.7
MylanLab	17.74	+.12	+.3
Pfizer	26.59	-.02	-1.1
SchergPl	18.80	-.54	-10.0
Sepracor	62.26	-2.56	+4.9
Wyeth	40.85	+.12	-4.1

**BIG TIME**

The Shape of Things: Kirstie Alley takes control of her image — and her weight — with the new reality sitcom “Fat Actress.” | 22

Entertainment Weekend

Getting Warmer

‘Be Tepid’ is a better title for the mugging sequel to ‘Get Shorty’

FILM | “Be Cool” actually bears only a vague resemblance to its vastly superior predecessor, the 1995 comedy “Get Shorty.” John Travolta is back as Chili Palmer, mobster-turned-movie-producer, who now wants to switch to the music business. He still dresses in black and he still whips out that “Look at me” line when confronting his enemies.

When he’s gone — which is often, with the myriad characters and subplots crammed into Peter Steinfeld’s meandering script — the movie feels wayward. But even when he’s on camera, he’s strangely vacant

— the straight man playing it bland while character actors and celebrities mug knowingly all around him.

Among them are Uma Thurman, relegated to the role of eye candy as the head of an indie record label; Vince Vaughn in a one-joke part as a music executive who talks like a hip-hop thug; and Cedric the Entertainer as an Ivy League-educated music producer who can go gangsta when necessary.

WASTED: “Be Cool” doesn’t give Thurman much to do.



Providing a couple of laughs are The Rock, playing a gay Samoan bodyguard who wants to be a country singer, and Andre Benjamin (of OutKast) as a member of the rap group the Dub MDs, short for WMDs.

By now you’re probably seeing a theme emerge: It’s a satirical indictment of the way whites have co-opted black culture. As Sin LaSalle, Cedric the Entertainer makes the point in an eloquent speech to a room full of music executives, Russian mobsters and rappers. (Yeah, it’s as complicated as it sounds.)

The scene being played up heavily in the ads for “Be Cool” finds Travolta and Thurman dancing together again as they did so famously in “Pulp Fiction.” It takes you out of the moment and reminds you that you are watching two movie stars reenacting an iconic moment in contemporary cinema.

A cooler film wouldn’t try so hard to impress you.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

I’m wondering if there is a good home-brewing supply store in the D.C. metro area.

Check out Jay’s Brewing Supplies in Fairfax they have a really good reputation with local home brewers. You might also want to contact BURP (Brewers United for Real Potables).

www.jaysbrewing.com; burp.org.

Where can I find Nationals items for sale? I’m looking for collectors items rather than hats and tees.

Your best bet is to check out the store near RFK Stadium. They should have just about every official Nationals-related item. But if they don’t have what you’re looking for, then just go to the team’s shop on the MLB Web site.

washington.nationals.mlb.com



It’s a fine line between collector’s item and piece of absurd holiday kitsch.

Where can you recommend going for dancing on a Saturday night that’s less hip-hop and more Britpop/dance/techno side, preferably in Dupont?

Sounds like Red is probably your best bet. If you’re willing to venture out of Dupont, the Black Cat has about 34,428 different dance nights now on the Britpop side of things.

Red, 1802 Jefferson Place; NW; 202-466-3475. (Dupont Circle)

The Going Out Gurus of Got Plans? think you should get out more. Get in on the discussion every Thursday at 1 p.m.

A Timely Mystery

FILM | Either you’re going to go with a movie about time travel, or you’re not. “The Jacket” makes you want to go with it, based on the strength of its performances and the fact that if you try really hard to wrap your brain around it, the premise kinda sorta makes sense.

But it’s also a romance, a mystery, a psychological drama and a paranoid thriller.

Adrien Brody’s character, Jack Starks, may indeed be traveling forward in time while undergoing

treatment at a mental institution. Or it may just be all in his mind.

Brody is so subtle, though, so believably tormented, he makes it possible to accept that Starks repeatedly jumps forward 15 years to the same small Vermont town he’s in now, where he becomes involved with sullen waitress Jackie (Keira Knightley).

Starks, a U.S. Marine sergeant, returns home after being shot in the head in Iraq. While hitchhiking, he gets in the wrong car and winds up

on trial for murder, though he has no idea what happened. He’s found not guilty by reason of insanity and placed in a state hospital.

Starks’ claustrophobic hallucinations are depicted with an excess of visual gimmickry. Unnecessarily, because Massy Tadjedin’s script is trippy enough, and Brody and Knightley are more than compelling as their characters try to figure out how Starks ended up where he is and how to change his fate. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



WARNER INDEPENDENT PICTURES

FUTURE PERFECT: Brody is compelling as a Gulf War casualty having visions.

TWO THUMBS UP? Or 10 toes? Get the verdict on the latest film releases in today’s *Washington Post*.

War Diary: There’s no romanticism in “Gunner Palace,” Michael Tucker’s video diary about soldiers surviving an ill-defined tour of duty in Iraq. Desson Thomson reviews. | *Weekend*

Song of the South: Ann Hornaday hears the music in “Schultze Gets the Blues,” Michael Schorr’s endearing little movie that delivers a lilting paean to self-expression. | *Style*

Caricature Actors: Moon Sang Kim’s sci-fi noir cartoon adventure “Sky Blue” is amazing to look at, but the clichéd dialogue detracts from the magic. Michael O’Sullivan reviews. | *Weekend*

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Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

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Bill Zwecker, CBS-TV



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Weekend | Entertainment



ONE MAN AND TWO BABIES: "The Pacifier" goes for big-guy-vs-little-brats laughs, but the big guy is too stiff to be likable.

‘Suck’ Joke Goes Here

‘The Pacifier’ fails to make musclehead Vin Diesel act human

FILM | Didn't Hollywood learn anything from "Mr. Nanny"? Cuddly, mischievous kids and over-muscled tough guys don't mix.

Vin Diesel is not funny in so many ways in the family action comedy "The Pacifier," a vain attempt to broaden his prospects beyond the bust-'em-up thriller, a genre in which he's already grown stale.

Diesel is a Navy SEAL assigned to watch over the children of a slain security expert, a family ranging from a puke-prone baby and a destructive toddler to a couple of

rebellious teens.

As crackerjack rescue-ops leader Shane Wolfe, Diesel tries to apply his "my-way-or-the-high-way" approach to baby-sitting the five Plummer kids and protecting them from nebulous villains trying to find a wayward satellite-defense program developed by the kids' late father.

The children — led by Brittany Snow and Max Thieriot as the surly elders and Morgan York as the adorable middle kid who becomes Shane's protege — battle back, putting Diesel through a succession of stilted pratfalls.

Diesel tries to play his action persona for laughs, but he simply cannot curl his mouth around lines meant to be funny. His stiffness is

exacerbated by lackluster action sequences, sapping the movie of Diesel's one strong suit, breaking heads credibly.

The filmmakers toss a talented supporting cast to the wolves, particularly Lauren Graham of "The Gilmore Girls," who's forced to amble awkwardly through a vacuous part as a school principal with a romantic interest in Diesel's Shane.

Here's a hint to pass the time should you be assigned to escort the kids to this comatose comedy: Every time Vin Diesel starts to speak, imagine shoving an adult-sized pacifier in his mouth. It doesn't make the movie go any faster, but it gives you something to do while you're not laughing. DAVID GERMAIN (AP)



Smits Gets Women's Vote

FAKE POLITICS | It's Jimmy Smits over Alan Alda in a landslide.

Pollster John Zogby, who often asks Americans who they think will be elected president, surveyed viewers of "The West Wing" asking which candidate they prefer for the NBC network's political drama's next president — Democratic Rep. Matt Santos of Texas, played by Smits, or Republican Sen. Arnold Vinick of California, played by Alda.

The second term of Democratic President Josiah Bartlet (Martin



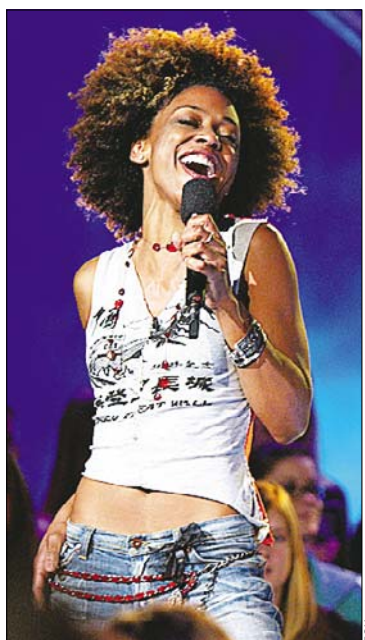
Jimmy Smits' "West Wing" character, Matt Santos, is a hit with the viewers.

Sheen), is coming to an end.

Smits' character leads Alda's character 44 percent to 28 percent among "West Wing" viewers contacted by computer for the interactive poll.

Vinick, it seems, has a gender problem: "While he and Santos are tied among men, each getting 35 percent of the vote, Santos holds a commanding lead among women, where he outpolls Vinick 53 percent to 22 percent," Zogby said.

The poll results were based on the answers of 5,505 American adults nationwide who said they were viewers of the show. (AP)



SAVING GRACE: "Idol" performers like Nadia are keeping viewers tuned to Fox.

Fox TV Bounces Back Big

RATINGS | Back in the fall, Fox was in miserable shape, with post-season baseball its only saving grace in the ratings. But thanks to this year's Super Bowl — and the return of "American Idol" — the network has come roaring back to life.

For the February sweeps, Fox is expected to crush rivals in both total viewers and adults ages 18 to 49, the demographic most important to advertisers.

Fox's telecast of the Feb. 6 Super Bowl, which drew 86.1 million viewers, deserves much of the credit. Without it, Fox would have logged 10.6 million average viewers per night and landed in third place behind CBS and ABC. However, "Idol" has proven so potent among young adults that even without the Super Bowl, Fox would have won in that demographic category.

The news comes just in time for Fox chief executive Gail Berman, whose job security recently has been rumor mill fodder. Her contract is due to expire later this year.

Berman said the network remains committed to its strategy of launching new shows throughout the year, rather than in the fall and midwinter like most networks.

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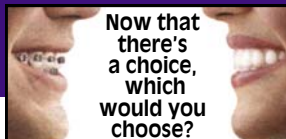
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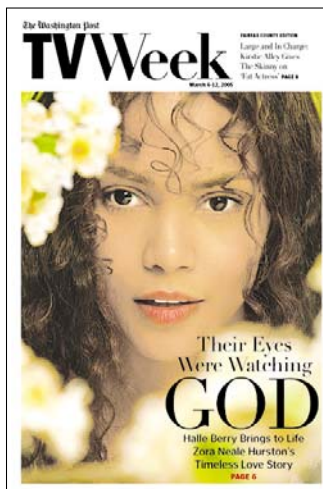
FRIDAY

THE SECRET MACHINES, at 9:30 Club, have been turning heads with an intoxicating concoction of old-school psychedelic jams and hooky indie rock, replete with a uniquely stark light show. Hopefully you'll be treated to their gorgeous shoe-gazey cover of Dylan's "Girl From the North Country."

CLEM SNIDE defies stock alt-country conventions to create a timeless and diverse sound that highlights frontman Eef Barzelay's remarkable singing and songwriting talents. **ARCHER PREWITT** (formerly of post-rock supergroup The Sea and Cake) opens the Black Cat show.

The cozy Ram's Head Tavern in Annapolis is the perfect spot to catch Austin roots-rocker

Sunday in The Washington Post



Fan Favorite:

Oprah Winfrey and Halle Berry bring Zora Neale Hurston's 1937 novel to life with an earnest version for ABC. | **TV Week**

The Best Job in the World:

Jim Seay is a roller-coaster designer, so he knows which rides to get in line for and just where to sit for the screamiest experience. | **Sunday Source**



DECEIVING LOOKS: Helmet is four clean-cut young men committing musical mayhem with the help of jazz and classical training and a love for inside-out skronk.

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO. Known for his mesmerizing live performances, Escovedo informs his Americana-drenched tunes with his rebellious cowpunk background.

SOULFLY — at Jaxx in Springfield — features ex-Sepultura frontman and heavy-metal luminary Max Cavalera. Attendees should go ahead and schedule an appointment with their ear doctors for Monday morning.

SATURDAY

After innumerable opening gigs for hotly tipped indie bands, **AMBULANCE LTD.** has the spotlight to itself. Headlining at Black Cat, the impeccably coiffed NYC quartet play dreamy pop, but aren't afraid to wander into grittier territory. Openers include **VHS OR BETA** and **ROBBERS ON HIGH STREET.**

A wizened sage of underground rock and lo-fi pioneer, **LOU BARLOW** brings his decades of experience in legendary bands like Dinosaur Jr., Sebadoh and the Folk Implosion to Iota. Acclaimed local songwriter **KARL STRAUB** opens.

Notorious rabble-rouser **GEORGE CARLIN** peels himself away from his dusty Atlantic City and Vegas haunts to perform his stand-up at the stately Warner Theatre.

Sure, you'll have to scrounge for a ticket to this sold out show at 9:30 Club and struggle through nu-metal imitators like Chevelle, but post-hardcore innovator **HELMET** is well worth the wait. The band is together

again — finally — after a six-year hiatus, and is here to remind you that "Meantime" is one of the best hard-rock albums of the '90s.

SUNDAY

As mock-rocker David St. Hubbins of Spinal Tap declared, "It's like a pair of eyes. You're looking at the umlaut, and it's looking at you."



VHS or Beta are '80s-inspired disco doliies with a wicked modern edge.

That's right, German punctuation trailblazers **MÖTLEY CRÜE** are back at MCI Center. Nikki Sixx, Tommy Lee, Vince Neil and the gang use a little less hairspray now, but their misogynist pop-metal hits still rock.

Head to the Black Cat backstage say a proper farewell to indie popsters **THE SMALL SHOUTS**, playing their final show. Don't worry, you can catch tireless Small Shouts' member Olivia Mancini perform with the Washington Social Club nearly every weekend at a club near you. **PETER DENTON**

Movies **Now Playing**

THE AVIATOR (PG-13, 169 minutes)

This film biography of Howard Hughes (Leonardo DiCaprio) is hugely entertaining in a very specific way — its primary appeal is its speed. It rushes along from scandal to air crash to movie romance to Senate hearing, each anecdote well realized but never tarried over. Director Martin Scorsese loves Hughes the Legend, and the movie vividly deploys the three playthings that sum up Hughes' life: hot airplanes, mediocre movies and beautiful dames. "The Aviator" is great glamorous fun, but it's moving so fast you don't notice some of the shortcuts and bad choices. (SH)

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG, 105 minutes) Friendless, isolated Opal (AnnaSophia Robb), new to a small Southern town with her preacher father, meets Winn-Dixie, a scruffy, huggable



PICTURES FROM REAL LIFE: Fourteen-year-old Puja Mukherjee, a sex worker's daughter, poses with a camera in the documentary "Born Into Brothels."

dog that she names after the grocery chain when she finds him running amok. The film chronicles the summer when Opal and Winn-Dixie cobble together a quirky community of friends. "Winn-Dixie" is that rare youngsters' movie in which the happy ending is hard-won, and that much more triumphant when it comes. (AH)

BAD EDUCATION (NC-17, 109 minutes) Spanish auteur Pedro Almodóvar is

up to his usual tricks in this rapturous movie-within-a-flashback-within-a-fantasy-sequence. More than tweaking his audience with sexually subversive material or dazzling it with his lush palette, Almodóvar is interested in expressing his love for his chosen medium — its history and grammar, its luminous, almost tactile properties. (AH)

BORN INTO BROTHELS (unrated, 85 minutes) British photographer Zana Briski

comes to Sonagachi, the red-light district of Calcutta, and teaches photography to the children of prostitutes. As these boys and girls learn how to frame pictures, load film and accept Briski's techniques, they also learn to see their world differently. The movie is really about changing the perspectives of eight children in a hopeless world. (DT)

BRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG-13, 111 minutes) Gurinder Chadha, the British-Punjabi filmmaker who made "Bend It Like Beckham," has Bollywoodized Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" into an east-meets-west musical. The lovebirds are headstrong Indian Lalita (Aishwarya Rai) and rich-kid yank Will (Martin Henderson). The movie's cross-cultural changes from, and similarities to, the novel are intriguing. But in the end, the film is a we-are-the-world encounter full of colorful ribbons, scarves and saris, with foot-stirring spice-pop. (DT)

THE CHORUS (PG-13, 96 minutes) Sure Christophe Barratier's movie about a music teacher and his dirty-faced choir is pure French cheese. But you might crumble into itty-bitty pieces of emotional Roquefort watching it. In

1949 France, teacher Clement Mathieu (Gerard Jugnot) joins a school of rejects and misfits, and turns the bad boys into heavenly choristers. And it turns out the troublesome Pierre (Jean-Baptiste Maunier) sings like an angel. Yep, it's all sentimental fromage, but touching-ly done. (DT)

CONSTANTINE (R, 121 minutes) This dreary (and possibly profane) action thriller rife with theo-core clichés owed to every
Continued on page 18



HAIRY SITUATION: Christina Ricci must fight off werewolves in "Cursed."

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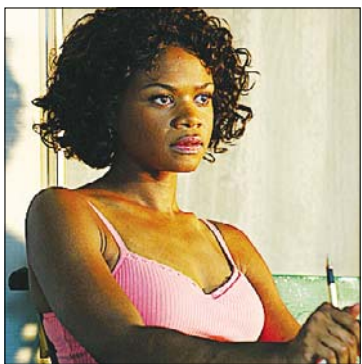
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Continued from page 17

one from Linda Blair to the Baltimore Catechism to "Oh God, You Devil!" Keanu Reeves as freelance exorcist John Constantine (from the comic-book series "Hellblazer"), spends his time trying to redeem his soul: As a child, young Connie could see who was possessed by demons. Eventually, he couldn't take it anymore and killed himself and went to



ANGER MANAGEMENT: Kimberly Elise gets mad and gets even in "Diary."

hell, which then sent him back to earth. Symbology runs amok here, and characters are always looking things up in crumbly tomes to verify the true meaning of this or that, which may play fairly well to the same mania that propelled "The Da Vinci Code" to cult status. (HANK STUEVER)

CURSED (PG-13, 96 minutes) Christina Ricci is such a singular film presence that it's heartbreaking to see her in such an unsingular film. Ricci and Jesse Eisenberg play orphaned siblings who, after a mysterious accident, must face

the possibility of their own werewolfism even while the beast itself chases them. Wes Craven, who started the "Nightmare on Elm Street" series, should know a lot better. The special effects are particularly lame — when the big bad wolf is seen full on, it looks like Rin Tin Tin on a bad hair day. (SH)

DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13, 116 minutes) Based on playwright Tyler Perry's wildly successful stage version of the same inspirational story, "Diary" is three not-very-good movies in one. In the first, Helen (Kimberly Elise), the spurned spouse of a successful lawyer finds love in the arms of a blue-collar Adonis. The second is a made-for-TV-style crime/courtroom/medical drama. Movie number three kicks in when Helen seeks shelter and solace in the arms of her grandmother, Madea, played by Perry as a white-wigged battle-ax in droopy-

tips are in high demand from the love losers of New York. Smith's Alex "Hitch" Hitchens, scarred from a past dumping and thus a commitment-phobe, gets his comeuppance when he falls for a curvaceous gossip columnist (Eva Mendes) who makes him lose his mojo. The film is flawed but likable, and in the subplot about a 9-to-5 schlub who hires Hitch to help him seduce an heiress (Amber Valletta), Kevin James takes the bitter-sweet ballet of the obese to a painfully hilarious new realm. (SD)

HOTEL RWANDA (PG-13, 110 minutes) Filmmaker Terry George isn't interested in giving Western audiences a case of the guilts — although it would be easy, considering the rest of the world did nothing as 800,000 people were murdered in Rwanda in a bizarre case of ethnic strife that metastasized into genocide over the course of a few months. Instead, he has

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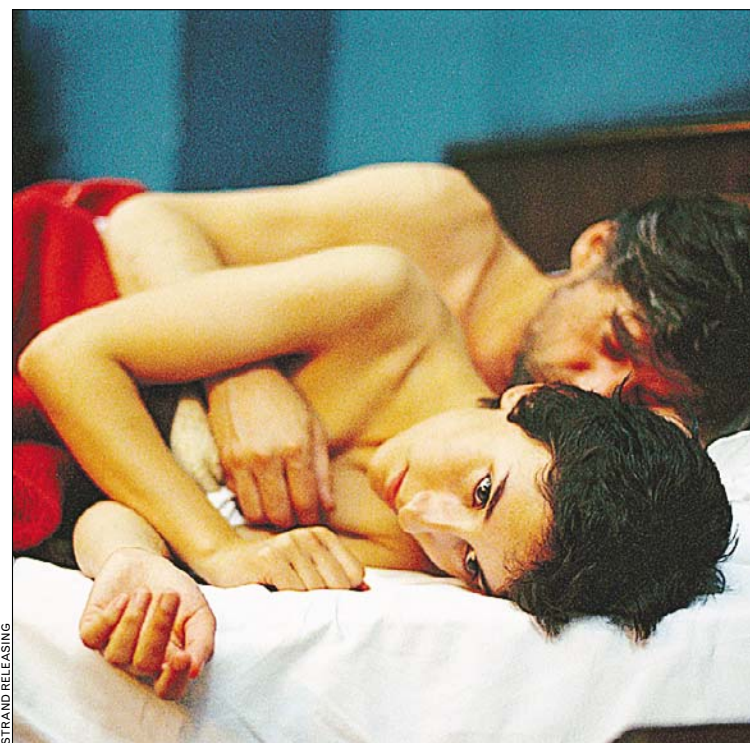
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COUPLES THERAPY: Cahill (Birol Unel) and Sibel (Sibel Kekilli) are an unlikely pair — a drunk and a suicide-prone beauty — in the emotionally searing "Head-On."

bosomed drag. The gear shifting left me with whiplash, and CinemaScope ain't wide enough to contain the scenery chewing here. (MO)

HEAD-ON (unrated, 118 minutes) This gritty romantic melodrama, set in the Turkish neighborhoods of Hamburg, is about a marriage of convenience between two violent souls: Cahit (Birol Unel), a drunken widower with a ravaged face, and Sibel (Sibel Kekilli), an eccentric beauty prone to suicide attempts. Director Faik Akin imbues this film with a raw emotional urgency that never relents. (DT)

HITCH (PG-13, 114 minutes) Will Smith ditches his slimy slickster routine as a professional smoothie whose wooing

made a film about one man's complicated and finally courageous response to his country's descent into madness. That man, Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle), sheltered more than 1,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus at the hotel where he was manager during the crisis. But the great strength of "Hotel Rwanda" is that it's not about superhuman heroism but simply about human decency. (AH)

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13, 119 minutes) A romantic martial arts rhapsody set in medieval China, where beautiful people possess martial arts skills that transcend time, space, gravity and physics, this film from Zhang Yimou will likely be compared to "Crouching Tiger, Hidden

Now Playing

Dragon." But it's better — more complete, more powerful, sadder, richer, wiser, more fights, more horses, more Zhang Ziyi. (SH) **THE INCREDIBLES** (PG-13, 115 minutes) Funny, inspired, with superbo animation, this is easily the best and brightest family-friendly movie of the year. Bob Parr (Craig T. Nelson) and his wife, Helen (Holly Hunter), "Mr. Incredible" and "Elastigirl," respectively, have been forced to skip town and are raising super-powered kids in suburban anonymity. Fifteen years into the Parrs' frustrating retire-



SOFT TOUCHDOWN: Tommy Lee Jones sends his Texas Rangers skills to college.

ment, a slinky number named Mirage (Elizabeth Peña) invites Bob on a special mission — and what's a superheroic family to do except follow? (DT) **INSIDE DEEP THROAT** (NC-17, 92 minutes) This documentary gives an instructive account about "Deep Throat," a 1972 porn film that was the most profitable movie in history (made for \$25,000, earned \$600 million). The movie's staggering windfall and instant respectability became its downfall when federal prosecutors brought the lead male actor to trial. The documentary is informative, but the interviews are mostly lackluster. (DT) **MAN OF THE HOUSE** (PG-13, 97 minutes) Legendary Texas Ranger Roland

Sharp (Tommy Lee Jones, brilliantly cast) is charged with keeping five University of Texas cheerleaders — witnesses to a killing — safe, so he moves in, complete with his perfect comic timing. But the comedy about the salty old guy in the house of youth mutates into the cheerleaders-are-wide comedy, moves on to an oldsters-fall-in-love drama, takes time out for the African-American-minister musical and winds up with a dad-daughter-reconciliation number. Soon, the many personalities grow tiresome. (SH)

MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13, 137 minutes) Clint Eastwood's movie is not only a tribute to boxing but also to the old-

Continued on page 20

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Weekend Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 19

time movies and fiction devoted to it. It's a gut-stirring tall tale about a boxer (one buff Hilary Swank), her crusty trainer (Eastwood) and the wily old boxing gym proprietor (Morgan Freeman) who narrates the story. Sign on for this movie and you are in a different world, where the rules are simple: Hit first and hit hard, or kiss the canvas. Sometimes you do all the right things and you still end up face-down in your own blood. (D) **NOBODY KNOWS** (unrated, 138 minutes)

Hirokazu Kore-eda's subtly heartbreaking saga (based on a true story) is about an irresponsible mother who leaves four children in a Tokyo apartment to fend for themselves. This is a call to heroism for the plucky Akira (Yuya Yagira), who does everything he can to maintain a household without adult supervision and, eventually, without money. Akira's determination to provide for himself and his siblings is the film's emotional driving force. (D) **RAY** (PG-13, 135 minutes) There may not be a bigger-hearted performance this year than Jamie Foxx's as Ray Charles. The story gets into Ray's battle with addiction, his life as a married man and father, and a confrontation with

the Jim Crow South. Kerry Washington and Regina King are spirited as Ray's good and bad women; Bokeem Woodbine is a charm as his saxophonist friend David "Fathead" Newman. But Foxx steals his own show. (D) **THE SEA INSIDE** (PG-13, 125 minutes) It's clear from the weepy, sweeping music that we're meant to be in tears by the end of this fact-based drama about quadriplegic poet Ramon Sampedro's legal fight to enact his own assisted suicide. If you're not moved, it might be because the film never bothers to tell you why its hero is so fired up about taking his own life—which, considering he has two hot women (Belen Rueda and Lola Duenas)



FINE LINE FEATURES

OCEAN OF EMOTION: Javier Bardem as Ramon Sampedro in "The Sea Inside."

salivating over him and a house full of doting relatives waiting on him hand and foot, could be a heck of a lot worse. In the end, I couldn't help thinking what Ramon needs is not a good lawyer but a good therapist. (M) **SIDEWAYS** (R, 124) Miles (Paul Giamatti) is an Everynerd who started out with promise and somehow got off track. Giamatti's middle school English teacher's idea of a good time is retiring with a glass of pinot noir. So it's a stretch when he agrees to go on a road trip with another loser, his college buddy Jack (Thomas Haden Church), a soap star who was once sorta famous. So they drive up and around Santa Barbara county, squab

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Times for Friday, March 4, 2005

Now Playing

bling, sucking back wine and wooing women. Eventually they take up with two women: Stephanie (Sandra Oh) and Maya (Virginia Madsen). There's not a false note here, and the support-

ing cast is uniformly excellent. (rw)
SON OF THE MASK (PG, 86 minutes) You'd never know Jamie Kennedy is actually a funny guy. In this sequel to the 1994 Jim Carrey vehicle, he's forced to play straight man to an obnoxious baby, born with superpowers after Dad impregnates Mom (Traylor Howard) while wearing the magical mask. There's

plenty of subversive id here, but abso-lutely no joy. (mo)
TRAVELLERS & MAGICIANS (unrat-ed, 109 minutes) Dondup (Tshewang Dendup) wants to immigrate from Bhutan to America, where he can make infinitely more money. A monk and fel-low traveler (Sonam Kinga), perceiving Dondup's impatience, tells a story about

Tashi (Lhakpa Dorji), a young man who falls in love with the beautiful wife (Deki Yangzom) of a possessive old man, and has some moral choices to make. What happens to Tashi, and how it parallels Dondup's situation, is the magic of Khyentse Norbu's deeply enchanting story within a story. (pt)
THE WEDDING DATE (PG-13, 89 minutes)

Director Clare Kilner and first-time hack Dana Fox steal from all those wedding movies, but they don't have a single orig-inal spark of their own. In fact, this movie may prove to be the most lifeless wed-ding romance ever. It's all pretty faces and six-pack abs, but no characters; all surface and no soul. Come to think of it, the surface isn't so damn hot, either. (pt)

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- ★ BE COOL (PG-13) (1:10 4:00)7:20 10:00
- ★ THE PACIFIER (PG) (11:50 2:00 4:20)6:50 9:00
- ★ THE JACKET (R) (12:50 3:20 5:40)8:00 10:30
- ★ DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13) (11:30 2:10 5:00)7:35 10:10
- ★ CURSED (PG-13) (12:10 2:40 4:50)7:30 9:45
- ★ MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG-13) (12:00 2:15 4:30)6:40 9:20
- CONSTANTINE (R) (11:40 2:20 5:10)7:40 10:20
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- SON OF THE MASK (PG) (2:30)7:00
- HITCH (PG-13) (11:00 1:40 4:10)7:10 9:50
- MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:40 3:40)6:30 9:40
- ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) (12:20 4:40)9:10
- THE AVIATOR (PG-13) 6:10 9:30



Cineplex Odeon TYSONS FARIFAX SQUARE
8065 Leesburgh Pike 703-506-9857

- ★ BE COOL (PG-13) (12:00 2:30 5:00)7:40 10:10
- ★ THE PACIFIER (PG) (12:15 2:45 5:15)7:30 9:30
- CONSTANTINE (R) (12:45 3:30)6:15 9:15
- BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) (1:00 3:20)6:00
- HITCH (PG-13) (1:30 4:00)7:00 9:50
- MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:30 3:45)6:45 9:40
- THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1:15 4:45)8:15
- FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) 9:00
- SIDEWAYS (R) (1:45 4:30)7:15 10:00



MAGIC JOHNSON THEATRES
CAPITAL CENTRE
800 Shopper's way, Largo 301-324-4220

- ★ BE COOL (PG-13) (11:00 2:00 5:00)8:00 11:00
- ★ THE PACIFIER (PG) (11:50 2:20 4:50)7:20 9:50
- ★ THE JACKET (R) (11:20 2:25 5:20)8:20 10:50
- ★ DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13) (ON 2 SCREENS) (11:10 12:10 1:40 2:40 4:10 5:10)6:40 7:40 9:10 10:10
- ★ MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG-13) (1:30 4:30)7:30 10:30
- ★ CURSED (PG-13) (12:30 3:30)6:30 9:30
- CONSTANTINE (R) (1:00 4:00)7:00 10:00
- SON OF THE MASK (PG) (11:40 2:10 4:40)
- HITCH (PG-13) (12:40 3:40)6:10 7:10 9:15 10:15
- ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) (12:20 3:10 5:40)8:10 10:40
- HOTEL RWANDA (PG-13) (11:30 2:30 5:30)8:30



Cineplex Odeon DUPONT CIRCLE 5
1350 19th Street 202-972-9956

- ★ SCHULTZE GETS THE BLUES (PG) (12:15 2:45 5:15)7:45 10:10
- BRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG-13) (12:00 2:30 5:00)7:30 10:00
- INSIDE DEEP THROAT (NC-17) (12:45 3:00 5:30)8:00 10:20
- BAD EDUCATION (NC-17) (1:30 4:10)7:00 9:45
- HOTEL RWANDA (PG-13) (1:00 3:50)6:40 9:30



Cineplex Odeon UPTOWN
3426 Connecticut Avenue 202-966-9805

- THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (12:30 4:15)8:00



Loews RIO 18
9811 Washington Blvd., Gaithersburg 301-948-0906

- ★ BE COOL (PG-13) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:00 1:35 2:50 4:25 5:40) 7:15 8:30 10:05 11:15
- ★ THE PACIFIER (PG) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:05 2:55 5:25)7:55 10:25
- ★ Rear Window Captioning (11:10 1:30 4:00)6:30 9:00 11:20
- ★ THE JACKET (R) (1:10 3:40)6:10 8:40 11:05

- BRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG-13) (11:30 2:10 4:50)7:30 10:10
- ★ DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13) (11:40 2:30 5:20)8:10 11:00
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- ★ MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG-13) (11:55 2:20 5:00)7:40 10:20
- BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) (12:50 3:50)6:40
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- CONSTANTINE (R) (12:25 3:25)6:25 9:35
- POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) (12:20)
- HITCH (PG-13) (11:50 2:40 5:30)8:20 10:15 11:10

- ONG-BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR (R) 9:30 P.M.
- MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:45 3:45)6:45 9:45
- ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) (12:15 2:45 5:15)7:45
- HOTEL RWANDA (PG-13) 6:50 9:40
- THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1:20 5:10)8:50
- FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (2:25 4:55)7:20 9:50
- SIDEWAYS (R) (12:35 3:35)6:35 9:25



Cineplex Odeon SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph 703-671-0978

- ★ GUNNER PALACE (PG-13) (12:30 2:50 5:00)7:10 9:20
- BRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG-13) (12:40 3:30)6:20 9:00
- CONSTANTINE (R) (1:10 3:50)6:30 9:10
- HOTEL RWANDA (PG-13) (1:40 4:40)7:20 10:00
- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (R) (12:50 3:40)6:40 9:30
- THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1:00 4:30)8:00
- SIDEWAYS (R) (1:20 4:10)7:00 9:40



Cineplex Odeon WISCONSIN AVE. CINEMAS
4000 Wisconsin Avenue N.W. 202-244-0882

- BE COOL (PG-13) (1:50 4:20)7:00 9:40
- THE PACIFIER (PG) (12:50 3:00 5:15)7:30 9:50
- HITCH (PG-13) (1:10 4:00)6:40 9:20
- MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:40 3:30 3:50)6:20 9:00 9:10
- HOTEL RWANDA (PG-13) (1:00 3:40)6:30 9:30
- FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (1:20)6:50



Cineplex Odeon ST. CHARLES TOWNE CTR. 9
11115 Mall Circle, Waldorf 301-648-0818

- ★ BE COOL (PG-13) (2:30 5:05)7:50 10:25
- ★ THE PACIFIER (PG) (1:50 4:15)6:30 9:20
- ★ DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13) (1:00 3:30)6:55 9:30
- ★ CURSED (PG-13) (1:40 4:05)6:20 9:05
- ★ MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG-13) (2:40 5:15)7:30 9:50
- CONSTANTINE (R) (1:30 4:35)7:15 10:05
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- HITCH (PG-13) (2:05 4:45)7:40 10:15
- MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) 8:55
- ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) (4:25)6:45 9:40



Loews GEORGETOWN
3111 K Street, N.W. 202-342-6033

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- ★ BE COOL (PG-13) (ON 2 SCREENS) (11:00 12:20 1:40 3:00 4:20 5:40) 7:00 8:20 9:40 11:00 12:20
- ★ THE PACIFIER (PG) (12:40 2:50 5:00)7:10 9:20 11:30
- ★ THE JACKET (R) (12:00 2:20 4:50)7:20 9:50 12:15
- ★ DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13) (11:50 2:30 5:10)7:50 10:30
- ★ CURSED (PG-13) (12:50 3:20 5:50)8:10 10:40
- ★ MAN OF THE HOUSE Rear Window Captioning (PG-13) (11:40 2:40 5:30)8:00 10:20
- CONSTANTINE (R) (1:00 3:40)6:20 9:10 11:55
- HITCH (PG-13) (11:20 2:00 4:40)7:30 10:10
- THE WEDDING DATE (PG-13) (11:30)
- MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:30 3:30)6:30 9:30 12:25
- BEING JULIA (R) (1:20 4:10)6:50 10:00
- THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1:50 5:20)8:40
- FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (11:10 1:30 4:00)6:40 9:00 11:40
- SIDEWAYS (R) (12:10 3:10)6:00 8:50 12:00



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- ★ THE PACIFIER (PG) (12:30 2:50 5:10)7:30 9:50
- CONSTANTINE (R) (1:00 3:50)6:45 9:30
- HITCH (PG-13) (1:15 4:05)7:00 9:45
- MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:45 3:40)6:35 9:35
- THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1:30 5:00)8:45

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CURSED (PG-13) Dig (Stadium) (1240 300 520) 750 1010			CURSED (PG-13) Dig (Stadium) (1215 230 500) 705 930			REGREST: LITTLE NEMO (G) Dig (Stadium) (1230)		
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						FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) Dig (Stadium) (1145 215 445) 725 955		

Television



MOUSE ATTACK: M-I-C-K-E-Y is returning to TV. The Disney Channel will premiere "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse" early next year as part of its "Playhouse Disney" morning block. Y? Because we like you!

'Eyes' on a Beloved Novel

Oprah and Halle bring Zora Neale Hurston's book to TV

ADAPTATIONS | You might think any director would find a project like "Their Eyes Were Watching God" somewhat daunting.

Here you have a TV film based on the literary classic by Harlem Renaissance author Zora Neale Hurston ... with superstar Halle Berry at its heart ... propelling a lush, impressionistic epic that's also startlingly intimate ... set in the rural South of the 1920s, costly to re-create ... with a hurricane thrown in for good measure.

Problems? Or opportunities?

Said director Darnell Martin, "You have a great novel, you have



LIVIAN ZINK/ABC

NATURE GIRL: Berry stars as Janie Crawford in "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

Halle Berry and all these other amazing actors [including Michael Ealy, Ruben Santiago-Hudson and Ruby Dee], and an incredible producer who is not only supportive of what you're doing, but has the power to give you what you need to tell the story." That would be Kate Forte, channeling the clout of her fellow executive producer, Oprah Winfrey. "What's to be daunting by?"

"Their Eyes Were Watching God" follows the personal journey of Janie Crawford (Berry), a sensuous but emotionally muzzled girl-woman looking to break free. Her odyssey includes three marriages, the last with a charismatic drifter named Tea Cake (Ealy). To say sparks fly is putting it mildly.

"The book is very sexual. It deals with a woman finding herself and

finding her sexuality," Martin said. "But I was filming it for ABC. So the challenging thing was: How do I shoot these incredibly sexual moments, without showing too much?"

"First, their kiss at a piano — the first time she's been kissed on the mouth. Then she goes away with him, and the intimacy progresses to a deeper sensuality."

To judge from the finished product, which airs on Sunday at 9 p.m., the FCC won't be fining anybody. But the commissioners may want to take a cold shower.

Janie also has sensuous moments alone.

"She has this special relationship with nature," said Martin, which the film makes clear in scenes like the one when Janie, on the porch slicing potatoes, finds a caterpillar. She sets it on the bridge of her nose and, eyes pinched shut, savors the tread of its tiny feet on her skin.

"Not a regular girl," Martin said.

FRAZIER MOORE (AP)



LEE CELANO/AP

The comedian fears he won't be able to use Jackson's woes as comic fodder.

Jay Leno Asks Jackson Judge to Lift Gag Order

JOKES | Jay Leno, who has been subpoenaed for Michael Jackson's child molestation trial, wants the judge to lift or clarify a gag order that could keep the comedian from one of his most vital sources of punch lines. Attorneys for the star of NBC's "The Tonight show" star said Judge Rodney S. Melville's sweeping order barring anyone involved in the case from discussing it outside court "could be interpreted to limit Mr. Leno's ability to publicly speak about the trial." (AP)

Kirstie Alley Downsizes

The 'Fat Actress' star is a heavyweight on her own terms

IN CONTROL | The plate of snacks is tempting, filled with chocolates, cookies and more, but the only member of Kirstie Alley's household to bite is Bradley the dog.

"No, no," Alley said, shooing the Welsh corgi away. She's equally disciplined with herself, nibbling on tiny heart-shaped mints.

Is this any way for the star of Showtime's "Fat Actress" to behave? The very title of the reality-comedy series is a rebuke to the notion that "F" is the modern scarlet letter and that anyone wearing it, especially in Hollywood, should get thin or get lost. The reality series-cum-satire debuts Monday at 10 p.m. on Showtime.

Alley does intend to get thin,

or thinner. But she refuses to let unflattering tabloid accounts or general cattiness stand as the last word on her weight, worth or employability.

"The second I made the decision to create this show, I was liberated. The game the tabloids wanted me in was the game of hiding, and then they find me and they would get the worst shot of me they could possibly get."

The obsession with looks extends beyond the industry and beyond weight, Alley said. "Yeah, it's great to have a pretty body, just like it's nice to drive a pretty car. But you aren't your car, and you aren't your body."

Professionally speaking, Alley figures she was lucky to be defined for years as the sexy woman who was funny in "Cheers" and films including "Look Who's Talking."

But the chubby woman who's



REUTERS



META-COMEDY: Former Alley co-star John Travolta guest stars on Alley's "reality sitcom."

funny is different: "I'm not going to be hired to play fat Kevin James' fat wife, because that's not the way it goes. So you have to create the show."

"It's not just about being fat. It's about things that happen with women. When I'm skinny in this sitcom, what are the problems going to be? There's only a million of them, just like in real life."

LYNN ELBER (AP)

LADY OF THE WHITE HOUSE: And you thought Geena Davis' Oscar was a curse. The gold man nabbed the '80s beauty a role as



the first female president of the United States in "Commander in Chief" for ABC. The two-hour pilot was written and directed by Rod Lurie.

Television

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

LAST SHOT
LAW & ORDER: TRIAL BY JURY (Fri., 10 p.m., NBC) takes its regular slot tonight. This is Jerry Orbach's final appearance as Lenny Briscoe.

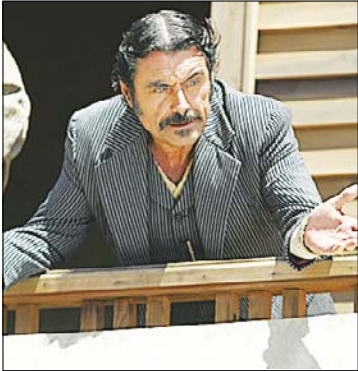
CLINT, BLOODY CLINT
BLOOD WORK (Fri., 8 p.m., TNT) Oscar winner Clint Eastwood ("Million Dollar Baby") directed hiss 2002 drama about an FBI agent who comes out of retirement to find the killer of his heart donor.

STUPID FOX ... GRRR
ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT (Sun., 8:30 p.m., Fox) Fox recently shut down production of the critically acclaimed series, so catch the last few episodes. On tonight's hour-long episode, Maggie (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) returns with something extra, Buster is about to be shipped out to Iraq and Mom

learns the power of prayer.

FINALLY!
DEADWOOD (Sun., 9 p.m. HBO) The profane Western enters its second season with bullets and epithets flying.

MEAN GIRLS
Corporate catfights abound tonight.



BLACK HATS: Ian McShane as the devious Al Swearingen in "Deadwood."

Suzanne Pleshette stars as a notorious real-estate mogul in the dishy 1990 biopic, **LEONA HELMSLEY: THE QUEEN OF MEAN** (Fri., 7 p.m., Lifetime), followed by Martha Inc.: The Story of Martha Stewart (9 p.m., Lifetime) starring Cybill Shepherd.

WHO KNEW?
"Queer Eye" cutup Carson Kressley shows off his flair for things equestrian on **CELEBRITY HOBBIES** (Sat., 8 p.m., DIY). He's a nationally ranked rider of American saddle-bred horses.

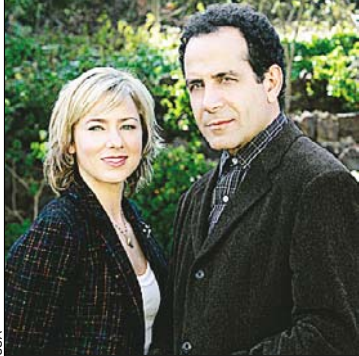
TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE
The latest variation on the talent-contest reality show, **THE STARLET** (Sun., 8 p.m., WB), pits 10 untrained actresses against each other in a chance for a big break. The show does a relatively poor job of exploiting the group dynamics between the young thespians. All of the best lines belong to the three judges, including actress Vivica A. Fox, casting

director Joseph Middleton and Hollywood legend Faye Dunaway.

Dunaway steals the show. She dismisses one performance with the quip, "This is not the Paris Hilton School of Acting." And she gets to deliver the show's signature kiss-off to the first two eliminated girls. "Don't call us," she coos venomously. "We'll call you."

USHER CONFESSES
Usher will perform songs from his recent multi-platinum album "Confessions" on the 90-minute musical special **ONE NIGHT ONE STAR** (Sat., 9 p.m., Showtime), broadcast live from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

PUT YOUR CLAWS AWAY
Taste arbiters tangle on back-to-back episodes of **WICKEDLY PERFECT** (Sat., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., CBS). The show has been scratched from next week's schedule, so this double dip looks like the wicked end for this perfectly awful series.



WARM FUZZIES: Traylor Howard and Tony Shaloub of "Monk" are adorable.

TOO CUTE
Fans of **MONK** (Fri., 10 p.m., USA) who fear the drama has gone astray should avert their eyes from tonight's episode. The far-fetched scenario also takes "Monk" into uncharted territories of cuteness. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

3.4.05	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC (4) News			NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Dateline NBC	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Trial by Jury (N)	News	News	News	Tonight Show
	WTTG (5) The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Friends	Seinfeld	Assembling	Bernie Mac	Jonny Zero "To Serve & Protect" (N)	News	News	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	WJLA (7) News	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Hope & Faith (N)	Less Than Perfect	20/20	News	News	(35) Nightline
	WUSA (9) News	CBS News	USA Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Joan of Arcadia "Secret Service" (N)	NUMB3RS "Pilot"	America's Next Top Model	America's Next Top Model	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	Every-Raymond	Late Show
	WDCA (20) That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Girlfriends	Girlfriends	America's Next Top Model	Washington Week	Wall-Fortune	NOW (N)	Mystery! The kidnapping of a love child. (DVS)	Get Down Tonight: The Disco Explosion	Charlie Rose (N)	Dharma & Greg
	WMPT (22) The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	State Circle	Washington Week	NOW (N)	Jrnl Edit. Rpt	Tucker Carlson	BBC World News	Tavis Smiley	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	Newport Jazz Festival 1954-2004
BASIC CABLE	WETA (26) BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	MoneyWise	This Far by Faith: African-American Spiritual Journeys	Spiritual Journeys	Reba	Blue Collar TV	Will & Grace	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	Blind Date (N)
	WHUT (32) White House	Tony Brown	BBC World News	MoneyWise	This Far by Faith: African-American Spiritual Journeys	Spiritual Journeys	Reba	Blue Collar TV	Will & Grace	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	Blind Date (N)
	WBDC (50) The Parkers	Steve Harvey	The Parkers	Steve Harvey	What I Like	What I Like	Reba	Blue Collar TV	Will & Grace	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	Blind Date (N)
	A&E	City Confidential	American Justice "Stacey's Story"	*** "Midnight Run" (1988) Robert De Niro. A bounty hunter and an accused embezzler must duck the mob.	American Justice: Susan Smith							
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter	The Most Extreme "Cheats"	Ultimate Zoo (N)	The Crocodile Hunter Diaries	Animal Cops Detroit	Ultimate Zoo					
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live The Rock.	College Hill	*** "3 Strikes" (2000, Comedy) Brian Hooks, N'Bushe Wright, Faizon Love.	Club Comic View	BET Nightly News	Maad Sports (N)					
SPORTS	Bravo	Inside the Actors Studio	Queer Eye for the Straight Girl	*** "Waterworld" (1995) Kevin Costner, Dennis Hopper. A lone seafarer must protect a child from vicious pirates.	*** "Waterworld" (1995)							
	Comedy	Crank Yankers	Women on Top	Daily Show	Mad TV	Premium Blend	Premium Blend	Com.-Presents	Premium Blend	Jamie Foxx's Laffapalooza	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain	
	Court	Hollywood Justice	Masterminds	Cops	Cops	The Investigators	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	I, Detective	Anatomy of Crime "The Drug War"	
	Discovery	Monster Garage	American Chopper "Miller Electric 2"	American Chopper "POW/MIA 1"	Southern Steel	American Chopper "POW/MIA 1"	Southern Steel	American Chopper "POW/MIA 1"	American Chopper "POW/MIA 1"	American Chopper "POW/MIA 1"	American Chopper "POW/MIA 1"	
	DISCH	Paramedics "Desert Fever"	Trauma: Life in the ER	Trauma: Life in the ER "Survivors"	Dr. G: Medical Examiner	Critical Hour "Chopper Rescue"	Trauma: Life in the ER "Survivors"					
	Disney	Lizzie McGuire	Lizzie McGuire	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven	*** "Max Keeble's Big Move" (2001) Alex D. Linz. (40) *** "Max Keeble's Big Move" (2001) Alex D. Linz, Larry Miller.	Phil of the Future					
MOVIES	E!	High Price of Fame	E! News (N)	Jackson Trial	Fashion: Academy Awards	Jackson Trial	Gastineau Girls	The Soup (N)	Life Is Great	Howard Stern	Howard Stern	
	FX	Fear Factor	Fear Factor	Fear Factor "Couples Show"	Fear Factor "Couples Show"	Fear Factor "Blizzard Show"	Fear Factor "Blizzard Show"	Fear Factor "All Gross Show"	Fear Factor "All Gross Show"	*** "Set It Off" (1996, Drama)		
	HGTV	Wknd Warriors	Landscapers	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Decorating Cents	Sensible Chic (N)	Designed to Sell	Design Remix	Divine Design	Crafters Coast	
	Family	7th Heaven "Time to Leave the Nest"	Smallville "Obscure"	*** "Eloise at the Plaza" (2003) Julie Andrews, Sofia Vassiliou.	Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club					
	History	History's Mysteries	Modern Marvels "Machu Picchu"	The Last Days of WWII "March 4-10"	Mail Call (N)	Mail Call	Modern Marvels	Modern Marvels	Modern Marvels	Modern Marvels "Smart Bombs"		
	Lifetime	The Golden Girls	*** "Leona Helmsley: The Queen of Mean" (1990) Suzanne Pleshette.	*** "Martha Inc.: The Story of Martha Stewart" (2003) Cybill Shepherd.	Merge (N)							
NEWS	MTV	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Eyes-50 Cent	Uncensored	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Viva La Bam	Viva La Bam	The Osbournes	The Osbournes
	NICK	Drake & Josh	Rugrats	Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Oddparents	Avatar-Last Air	Danny Phantom	Teenage Robot	Avatar-Last Air	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince
	SCI FI	Stargate SG-1 "Children of the Gods"	Andromeda	Stargate SG-1 "Reckoning" (N)	Stargate Atlantis (N)	Battlestar Galactica (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Untold Ricky Williams.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	
	SPIKE	World's Wildest Police Videos	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Best of What Not to Wear	What Not to Wear "Melanie A." (N)	Faking It "Dark Room to Vavoom!"	Best of What Not to Wear				
	TBS	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	
	TLC	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	Clean Sweep	
MOVIES	TNT	Charmed "Love's a Witch"	Law & Order "Untitled" (DVS)	*** "Blood Work" (2002, Mystery) Clint Eastwood, Jeff Daniels, Anjelica Huston. Premiere.	*** "Blood Work" (2002, Mystery) Clint Eastwood.							
	USA	Monk "Mr. Monk Gets Cabin Fever"	Monk	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Monk "Mr. Monk and the Kid"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Monk "Mr. Monk and the Kid"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Monk "Mr. Monk and the Kid"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
	VHI	The Surreal Life	The Surreal Life	*** "Soul Food" (1997) Vanessa L. Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long.	*** "Soul Food" (1997)							
	TELEM	Sala de Parejas	Noti-Telemndo	Anita No Te Rajes	La Mujer en el Espejo	Gitanas	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	Noticiero Tel.	Laura			
	UNIV	Viviana	Noticiero Univ	La Mujer de Madera	Rubi	Amor Real	Hospital El Paisa	La Escuelita	Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.		
	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)	NBA Shootaround	NBA Basketball Sacramento Kings at Miami Heat. From the American Airlines Arena in Miami.	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers.							
MOVIES	ESPN2	Tennis: Davis Cup -- Croatia vs. U.S.	College GameDay (Live)	Boxing Friday Night Fights -- Rocky Juarez vs. Juan Carlos Ramirez.	SportsCenter (Live)							
	CSN	The Sports List	SportsNite	NBA Basketball Golden State Warriors at Washington Wizards. (Live)	Wizards Post.	SportsNite (Live)	Gary Williams	Best-Sports				
	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Anderson Cooper 360	People in the News Martha Stewart.	Larry King Live (N)	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	Lou Dobbs Tonight					
	FNC	Special Report (Live)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (Live)	Hannity & Colmes (Live)	On the Record-Van Susteren	The O'Reilly Factor					
	MSNBC	The Abrams Report	Hardball	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	MSNBC Investigates	Scarborough Country	Hardball					
	AMC	(15) *** "Death Warrant" (1990, Drama) Jean-Claude Van Damme. 'R'	*** "Dolores Claiborne" (1995, Suspense) Kathy Bates, Jennifer Jason Leigh. Premiere. 'R'	*** "Exorcist II: The Heretic" (1977) Linda Blair. 'R'								
MOVIES	TCM	(5:00) *** "Between Two Worlds"	John Garfield Story	*** "Scarface" (1932, Drama) Paul Muni, George Raft, Boris Karloff. 'PG'	*** "Gold Diggers of 1935" (1935, Musical) Dick Powell. 'G'							
	HBO	(4:30) Millennium	*** "Malibu's Most Wanted" (2003) Jamie Kennedy.	*** "The Devil's Advocate" (1997, Horror) Keanu Reeves, Al Pacino. 'R'	Unscripted	Real Time (S Live)						
	MAX	Chasing Liberty	*** "The Heist" (1989, Drama) Pierce Brosnan.	(15) *** "The Rundown" (2003, Adventure) The Rock. 'PG-13'	*** "Men in Black" (1997) Tommy Lee Jones. 'PG-13'	Amy Lynn Bax.						
	SHOW	(5:05) *** "Chilly Dogs" (2001) 'PG-13'	*** "It Runs in the Family" (2003) Michael Douglas. 'PG-13'	*** "Jeepers Creepers 2" (2003) Ray Wise. iTV Premiere. 'R'	Boxing Shobox: The New Generation.							
	TMC	*** "The Big Chill" (1983, Drama) Tom Berenger. 'R'	*** "Absolute Power" (1997, Suspense) Clint Eastwood, Ed Harris. 'R'	(05) *** "Narc" (2002, Crime Drama) Ray Liotta, Jason Patric. 'R'								
	STARZ!	(5:00) *** "Thelma & Louise" 'R'	(15) *** "Connie and Carla" (2004, Comedy) Nia Vardalos. 'PG-13'	*** "Miracle" (2004) Kurt Russell. The U.S. Olympic hockey team beats the Soviet team. 'PG'	(20) *** Fallen							
MOVIES	ENCORE	*** "Suspect" (1987, Drama) Cher, Dennis Quaid, Liam Neeson. 'R'	*** "Daddy Day Care" (2003) Eddie Murphy. 'PG'	(35) *** "Friday After Next" (2002) Ice Cube. 'R'	(05) *** "Scarface" (1983) 'R'							

Weekend ^{Sports}

WIZARDS

On the Road: It's time for Washington to prove it can win away from the MCI Center | **26**

REDSKINS

Giant Payday: Antonio Pierce leaves the Redskins for big bucks in New York | **27**



The Last Shot

Maryland visits Va. Tech needing a win to bolster its NCAA bid

COLLEGE HOOPS | It's early March, and here again are the Maryland Terrapins on the bubble of making the NCAA Tournament, playing basketball with all the anxiousness of a senior high school girl unsure if she'll be asked to the prom.

The Terps enter Saturday afternoon's game at Virginia Tech as losers in three of their last four games. By dropping the regular season series against inferior Clemson and N.C. State, Maryland has made the game against the Hokies extremely significant.

Given the ACC's rating as the best conference in the country, Terrapins coach Gary Williams believes an 8-8 conference record will garner Maryland a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Williams' logic is well-founded — in the last 10 years, only two of 44 teams with at least eight ACC wins have failed to make the Big Dance.

So a win tomorrow would go a long way toward Maryland extending its streak of consecutive NCAA tournament appearances to 12.

But the Terps can't get their eighth win without going through the Hokies, who are coming off a last-second loss to Clemson.

"The last game of the season is going to be a dogfight, especially going down to Virginia Tech for their senior night," said Maryland sophomore guard Mike Jones following the team's 85-83 loss to North Carolina on Sunday.

The Terps have proven during their inconsistent season that they



SLIP UP: Maryland's Mike Jones takes a dive during the team's loss to North Carolina last Sunday. The Terps face Virginia Tech in a must-win game on Saturday.

can play well enough to beat Duke twice and poorly enough to lose to Clemson twice.

Maryland junior guard Chris McCray, arguably the Terps' most consistent player this season, said a win tomorrow would help the team's mental state, which has been ravaged all season by what point guard John Gilchrist recently called "behind-the-scenes" issues and "outside factors."

"We want to win going into the ACC Tournament to get our confidence back up and to show that we can beat another good team," said McCray.

Speaking of the ACC Tournament, which begins March 10 in Washington, the Terps were 16-11, 7-9 ACC entering last year's tournament, which they won. With a loss in tomorrow's regular season finale, Maryland will be — you guessed it — 16-11, 7-9 ACC.

BRENDAN LOWE

MARYLAND'S RESUME

- **Sweepers:** Beating Duke twice won't go unnoticed by the tournament committee.
- **Nonconference wins:** Early-season victories over Memphis, George Mason, Temple and American.
- **Conference losses:** A 69-64 defeat at Wisconsin should not hurt the Terps in the long run. A loss to George Washington at BB&T Classic looks worse all the time.
- **Swept:** Four losses to N.C. State and Clemson may be the most damning thing against the Terps.
- **The past:** 11 straight trips to the NAAs and the 2002 title won't hurt their cause.

TV Lineup



NEW DIGS: Baron Davis joined Golden State in a trade at last week's deadline.

→ **GOLDEN:** With Larry Hughes back in the lineup, the Washington Wizards host Baron Davis and the Golden State Warriors on Friday (7 p.m. on Comcast) before starting a long road trip on Saturday against the Charlotte Bobcats (7 p.m. on WB50).

→ **TOURNEY TIME:** One week before the men start their post-season play, the ACC women's teams take part in the league tournament. The semifinals will be televised on Sunday (1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Fox Sports Net).



Mickelson

→ **TEE TIME:** Phil Mickelson is just one of the big names at the star-laden Ford Championship, which concludes on Sunday (3 p.m. on NBC) in Miami.

→ **MUST WIN, AGAIN:** Last week, Maryland needed to beat North Carolina to ensure an NCAA Tournament bid and lost. Now the Terps must defeat Virginia Tech on the road on Saturday (4 p.m. on UPN20).

→ **MUST WIN, PART II:** George Washington looks to shake off its loss to Saint Joseph's this week when it takes on Atlantic 10 rival Rhode Island on Saturday (2 p.m. on ESPN).

→ **TOP GAME:** North Carolina looks to avenge its earlier loss to Duke on Sunday (4 p.m. on CBS).

COLLEGE HOOPS | Record Low It was like almost every other game for Longwood's basketball team: The Lancers lost to Utah Valley State, 54-50, on Wednesday — a defeat that earned the Virginia school the dubious honor of matching the NCAA record for futility with 30 losses this



season. The last school to fare so poorly was Grambling State University in 1999-2000. In trying to earn a permanent Division I spot, Longwood stacked its schedule against powerhouses like Wake Forest and No. 1 Illinois. The team's only win came against Howard on Dec. 18. (EXPRESS)

Fan Fare

BASEBALL | BY MATT SWENSON

Love-to-Hate Relationship

AS NICE AS IT WAS TO SEE THE NATIONALS finally take the field on Wednesday, it won't compare to Saturday's spring training game.

That's when *our* Nats face *their* O's.

That's right. There may be plenty of Orioles fans left in the region — a product of 33 years without the national pastime in the nation's capital — but it's time to take sides.

Baltimore owner Peter Angelos has made the point a thousand times over that D.C. doesn't need a team. And his moping is the biggest reason why Major League Baseball still doesn't have

"The whole offseason was a great prelude to what should be a long, wonderful rivalry."

Instead of complaining about all of this, let's embrace it. All the talk about the Nationals has been warm and fuzzy so far. But the best part about baseball is having someone to hate.

The whole offseason was a great prelude to what should be a long, wonderful rivalry.

First the O's said the Nationals' mere existence would prevent them from signing free agents. Then they made sure to beat the Nats in getting Sammy Sosa. Can't let Vinny Castilla, Cristian Guzman and Jose Guillen be the top acquisitions around here.

Imagine what it will be like once the Nationals have an owner. Imagine what it will be like when the Nationals play the Orioles in the regular season.

Alas, the Nats likely won't have an owner before July and won't play the Orioles after March.

But on Saturday, the rivalry will be real, even if the game isn't.

Matt Swenson, a lifelong Washingtonian, is sports editor of Express.

Few See Nationals Win

Loaiza struggles in a sloppy victory over Bethune-Cookman

NATIONALS | With the cool weather, the empty seats and the lack of experienced major leaguers on the field, the Washington Nationals could almost have been back in Montreal.

On a dreary day with none of the hoopla of their spring training opener, the Nationals came back to beat Bethune-Cookman 9-6 Thursday despite some iffy pitching and fielding, including four errors.

Free-agent signee Esteban Loaiza's first start for the Nationals went OK. He allowed two hits and three runs — one earned — over 2 2/3 innings and let a grounder go under his glove for an error.

He threw 51 pitches, 31 for strikes, with three strikeouts and a walk.

"The good thing is I feel great. I did what I needed to do. I'd rather



LONELY: Bill Greene and Sue Sorensen were two of about 100 fans at the Nats' game.

pitch against a major league team, but it's the manager's decision," said Loaiza, the 2003 AL Cy

Young Award runner-up with the Chicago White Sox.

"I just wanted to concentrate

on throwing my pitches for strikes and that's what I did today," said Loaiza, 100-89 in his career with a 4.70 ERA. "I got a lot of ground balls."

Bethune-Cookman took a 4-1 lead off Loaiza and Sun-woo Kim in the first five innings, not exactly an auspicious sign for the Nationals given that the college team came in with a 3-13 record.

There was an entirely different atmosphere from the first game in Nationals history, a new beginning after three years of uncertainty as the Montreal Expos.

On Wednesday, it was sunny, more than 7,000 fans showed up — some arriving five hours early — and Washington used what might be its opening day batting order to beat the New York Mets 5-3.

While 1,193 tickets were sold for Game 2, the actual attendance was closer to 100 under a slate sky and occasional rain drops.

HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

New Era Of Drug Testing

Baseball starts search for steroid users as Congress sets hearing

DOPING | On the first day of baseball's new era of drug testing, Steve Howe of all people happened to be in the New York Yankees clubhouse.

Suspended eight times by baseball in an era when the sport's focus was on cocaine use, Howe supports the new program in order for the sport to clear the cloud. He knows what it is to be in the glare of the spotlight and under suspicion.

"I was one of the first to be fried and tried," he said.

All of baseball seemingly has to prove its innocence, which is



The Yankees' Jason Giambi has been asked to testify in front of Congress.

why players agreed to the new deal, which calls for more testing, additional banned performance-enhancing substances and a 10-day suspension for a first offense.

As the first tests were being taken, a congressional committee scheduled a hearing for March 17 on the new drug-testing agreement, which hasn't even been finalized. Among those invited to testify were Jose Canseco, Jason Giambi, Mark McGwire, Curt Schilling, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro, Frank Thomas, commissioner Bud Selig and players' association head Donald Fehr. RONALD BLUM (AP)

One Day in Aruba

Judge gives Ponson until May to reach deal following arrest

ORANJESTAD, ARUBA | The assault case against Baltimore Orioles pitcher Sidney Ponson was postponed Thursday, and a judge gave both sides until May 10 to reach an out-of-court agreement.

The 28-year-old Ponson is accused of committing violence alone or in the company of others in public, kicking a person in the head and battering a person by hitting him in the face with his fist.

If convicted, Ponson faces a maximum sentence of four years in jail, a fine and community service.

Judge Bob Wit, flown in from the nearby Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao to give the case a sense of impartiality, said he took the pitcher's career into consideration in postponing the case.

Wit said that Ponson's livelihood



SILENT: Ponson did not answer reporter's questions on Thursday in Aruba.

could be jeopardized if he has a criminal record because his U.S. work visa could be taken away. Ponson was born in Aruba, a semiautonomous Dutch Caribbean territory.

Ponson did not make any comments to the media and his agent Barry Paver said the pitcher would return to Florida for spring training later Thursday. TITO LACLE (AP)

Weekend Sports

Rocky Road Ahead

With Hughes back in action, Wizards seek to reverse road woes

WIZARDS | The Wizards don't win too many on the road. True. Even a non-playoff team like the Minnesota Timberwolves does better on the road than Washington. True. If the Wizards don't figure out how to win on the road this month,

they're doomed. Or maybe not.

Two-thirds of the Wizards' games in March are on the road, which has left fans — eyeing both Washington's place in the standings and their .385 winning percentage while away — a little jittery. But there's no reason to panic quite yet. Stacked up against their competition in the East, the Wizards' road record isn't that bad — an astonishing fifth, and a surprising 13th

overall in the NBA.

Of course, standings aren't based on road records, they're based on how many a team wins, whether at home or away; the Wizards need to win no matter where they play.

"We have to win at home. We have 10 of 15 on the road in March so we must find success on the road too," coach Eddie Jordan said this week.

The stage is set for the trend to change as well. The Wizards will



Gilbert Arenas and the Wizards have lost six consecutive road games.

be facing some pretty dismal teams over the stretch, including some that have more trouble on their home court than Washington does away:

Charlotte and Atlanta.

But mainly, the return of Larry Hughes puts the Wizards at full strength.

And, even if Washington can't completely break from their troubles, they can take comfort in knowing they finish up the season playing a majority of their April games here at MCI.

"I'm looking towards April. I don't want to get too uptight. We laid down the law of how we were going to play and now it is time to prepare for each game and not feel the pressure," Jordan said.

CHRIS MINCHER (EXPRESS)

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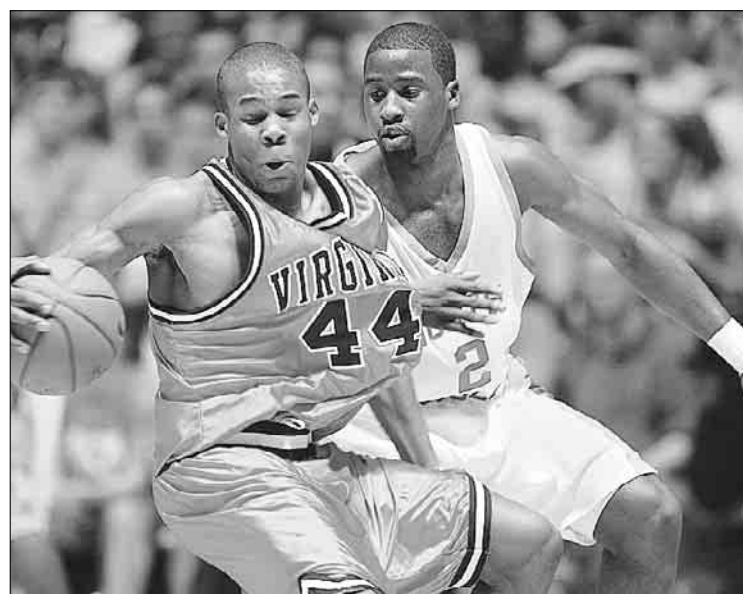
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"We're not going to fall apart," proclaimed Virginia freshman Sean Singletary.

Stand By Your Man

UVa.'s top freshman defends coach despite struggles this season

COLLEGE HOOPS | He's probably the most heralded recruit to come to Virginia for basketball since Ralph Sampson more than 25 years ago, and Sean Singletary thinks Pete Gillen isn't to blame for the Cavaliers' struggles this season.

"You can't blame any of the losses on him because he's not out there playing," Singletary said of the Cavaliers' embattled coach after Virginia lost 82-72 to North Carolina State on Wednesday night. "He's preparing us well, but we're just not going out there and getting it done. That's

it. That's the bottom line."

At a time when speculation about Gillen's future and a continuing failure to make key plays has worn on the players and fans, causing some to stay away from University Hall, Singletary and others said the Cavaliers are not giving up on the season.

They play at Florida State on Sunday in what shapes up as a battle for last place in the conference, then will have a first-round game in the ACC tournament. They need to win in Florida or at least twice in the tournament to finish with a .500 record, the minimum requirement for a team to be considered for a berth in the NIT.

Singletary said he'll see to it that the team fights to the end. "We're not going to let it fall apart," he said.

HANK KURZ JR. (AP)



Gillen

Terps Rookie Honored

WOMEN'S HOOPS | As one of the top recruits in the country, Crystal Langhorne had her pick of colleges, including perennial powers Connecticut and Tennessee.

She spurned both for the challenge at Maryland, and so far, her choice looks pretty smart.

Langhorne was named Freshman of the Year in the Atlantic Coast

Conference on Thursday, easily outdistancing North Carolina's Erlana Larkins in voting by the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association.

Of 74 available votes, Langhorne got 64, with Larkins (9) and Duke's Wanisha Smith (1) receiving the others. "I'm pretty shocked about it," Langhorne said.

She completed the regular season as the fifth-leading scorer in the conference at nearly 17 points a game, and she easily was tops in rebounding at 10.3 — the only player in double figures in that category.

"She is just a winner, a competitor," Maryland coach Brenda Frese said.

The 25th-ranked Terrapins (19-8) finished sixth in the ACC at 7-7, and they open the ACC tournament against Clemson on Friday night.

KEITH PARSONS (AP)



Langhorne

A Giant Defection

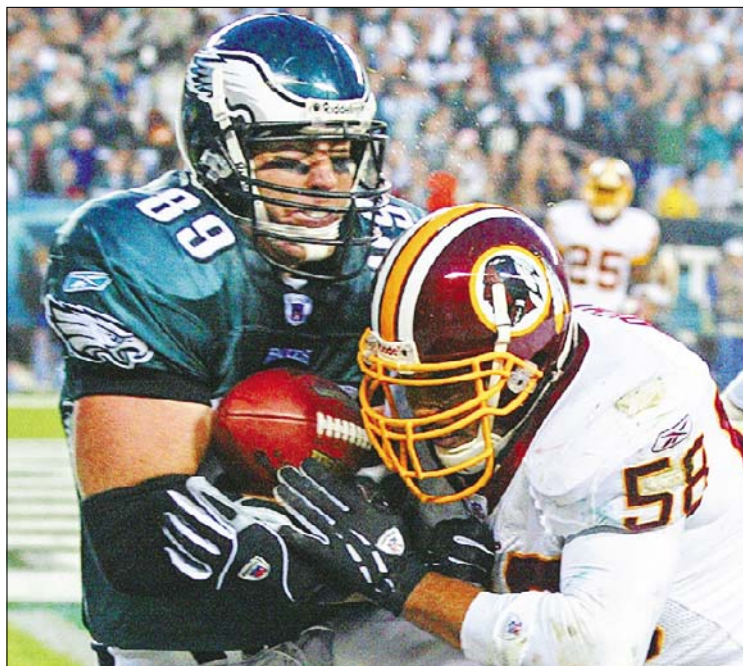
Redskins lose Pierce to Giants, try to sign wide receiver Patten

REDSKINS | The Washington Redskins, immersed in off-season struggles with salary cap issues and a disgruntled starting wide receiver, are losing free agent middle linebacker Antonio Pierce, coach Joe Gibbs acknowledged Thursday.

Pierce, the cerebral leader of the third-ranked defense in the National Football League, was poised to sign with the New York Giants, according to an official within the league who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Pierce is one of the core players that Gibbs had hoped to keep, but the coach said the Giants' offer — reportedly six years for \$26 million — was too much for the Redskins' budget.

"We went as far as we could go, I felt like. It's something that just didn't work out. I hate it," Gibbs said.



BIG BUCKS: Antonio Pierce, a key Redskin last year, signed with the N.Y. Giants.

Without Pierce, the Redskins have a huge hole in the middle of the defense. Mike Barrow is about to turn 35 and hasn't played in more than a year, having sat out last season with a chronic knee

injury. The team could seek a free agent linebacker, try to draft one, or take a chance that one of their young outside linebackers — such as Lemar Marshall — can move to the middle.

FREE-AGENT FRENZY
Thursday was another busy day full of NFL signings during the free-agent signing period:

- **Running back LaMont Jordan**, a former star at Maryland, agreed to a five-year, \$27.5 million contract with the Oakland Raiders.
- **The Dallas Cowboys** signed defensive tackle Jason Ferguson to a five-year, \$21.5 million contract. Dallas also signed guard Marco Rivera to a five year, \$20 million deal.
- **The Carolina Panthers** signed sought-after guard Mike Wahle and cornerback Ken Lucas.

The Redskins stepped up their search for a receiver, meantime, by inviting David Patten for a visit to Redskins Park.

Patten, who spent the last four seasons with the New England Patriots, caught 44 passes for 800 yards and seven touchdowns last season for the Super Bowl champion Patriots. He essentially would replace Rod Gardner, who has been given permission to seek a trade.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Firms Offer to Buy NHL Teams For \$3.5 Billion

HOCKEY | An investment firm and a sports advisory company reportedly made a joint proposal to buy all 30 NHL teams for as much as \$3.5 billion. The NHL recently canceled its 2004-2005 season amid a labor dispute.



Bettman

The two Boston companies were invited by NHL commissioner Gary Bettman to present the highly unusual offer, the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail reported Thursday.

Bain Capital Partners LLC and Game Plan LLC made their pitch Tuesday in New York to NHL owners.

Bain Capital spokesman Sam Hollander and Game Plan officials declined to comment Thursday to The Associated Press.

But Game Plan chairman Robert Caporale confirmed to WBZ radio in Boston that the companies had offered more than \$3 billion. (AP)

NASCAR Makes Pit Stop in Mexico

AUTO RACING | The good ol' boys have already broken free of their Southern roots. Now, they're eyeing a potentially booming market south of the border.

NASCAR will take its second-tier Busch Series to Mexico this weekend, the first time such a prominent points race has been held outside the United States and perhaps the precursor to going international with the Nextel Cup drivers.

While NASCAR has no immediate plans to hold a Cup race beyond U.S. borders, there's little doubt that Sunday's event at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez road course will be an important step in determining the popularity of stock cars in racing-crazy Mexico.

Mexicans already have demonstrated their passion for open-wheel racing, evidenced by the massive



START-UP: Busch series driver Jeff Burton shows off his car in Mexico.

crowds that turned out for the struggling Champ Car series.

Will stock car racing have the same hold on the populace? Mexico City native Michel Jourdain Jr. believes it will. "I'm sure it's going to be huge," said Jourdain, a former open-wheel driver who switched to the Busch Series this year. (AP)

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Local delivery in straight trucks. CDL not req. Good driving record, furniture exp. and cust. service skills preferred. \$600+ per/wk. Steven Blackwell @ 703-461-8859

DRIVER/LIMO CDL REQ'D
Wknds/eves. \$14-20/hr.
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Use your vehicle to deliver from restaurants in No. VA/DC. Earn \$12-20/hr. Paid training and starting bonus. Call 703-578-4218.

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Mid-sized parking company seeks a dynamic EA in search of a challenging and stable career opportunity. Excellent position for a seasoned EA who takes pride in being a confidential and true 'right hand'. Requires a bachelor's degree, 3+ years tenure as an EA to a high-level executive, exceptional computer proficiency, administrative savvy, and the finesse to communicate and be a liaison with individuals at all levels. The preferred candidate will be a perfectionist who has superior organizational skills, Dictaphone expertise, vendor cost-benefit analysis preparation, and the mastery of performing virtual updates on corporate websites.

Competitive salary and benefits with location near Farragut Metros. Resumes with mandatory salary requirements to email: hr@pmi-parking.com or fax to 202-303-3676. Please include job code EX2005. Principals only. EOE.

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Willing to educate.
Call Teressa 703-768-6300.

HOTEL — Front Desk Guest Service Agents — Full and Part time. Friendly, outgoing personality necessary. Must be able to work flexible hours. Near Courthouse Metro Station. Call 703/247-1002 for more information.

HOTEL — Room Attendants — 392-room hotel. Experience preferred. Must be able to work flexible hours. Near Courthouse Metro Station. Call 703/247-1002 for more information.

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Lawn Doctor, of Fairfax, needs two full-time technicians. Good pay and benefits. We will train with our patented equipment. Good VA drivers license req'd. Call 703-591-5665 for appt.

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DC Law firm, 9-5:30. Min 1 yr. Per. inj. exp req. MS Word/Win skills. \$14/hr or negot. Fax res: **202-785-2051**

Legal Secretary/Paralegal/Office Manager.
Solo Attorney seeks smart, upbeat individual with strong, accurate typing and computer skills. Some bookkeeping. Paul D. Pearlstein, 1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Fax 202-223-8737. www.pearlstein-law.com

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Maintenance, Upper NW **Plaster/Paint**
Luxury residential complex: experienced plaster/paint: year round, F/T; salary/benefits. Call 202-338-7802 or fax resume 202-338-4384.

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Highly organized individual needed to assist in managing a busy 3,000 car parking garage in Arlington, VA. Must have management exper., be computer literate, articulate, with good customer service skills. Must have own transportation to be considered. Call Mr. Thompson at 703-528-9863.

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SPORTS WRITER
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Arlington, VA 22216
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Restaurant

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Art

Clay enthusiasts hit the mother lode at big Charm City event

Over the next few months, it will be nearly impossible to view art in Baltimore without seeing works in clay. That's thanks to Tour de Clay, a celebration of ceramic artwork that ballooned into what organizers say is the largest-ever visual arts program in the United States.

The numbers are staggering: 122 exhibit spaces, 160 shows, 878 artists. The pottery ranges from functional to whimsical, renowned to obscure, mainstream to avant-garde.

"You know what Mae West said — too much of a good thing is wonderful," said Deborah Bedwell, executive director of nonprofit art center Baltimore Clayworks, who was largely responsible for putting the Tour together. The exhibits opened Feb. 19 and run through April 3, peaking from March 16-19 dur-



CHRIS GARDNER/AP

To the list of things associated with Baltimore, add long rows of clay mugs.

ing the annual conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts.

Soon after Baltimore Clayworks was chosen to host the conference, Bedwell found nearly every component of the city's cultural community wanted to be involved.

"Every college is participating. Every university is participating. Every museum is participating. All the art centers are participating," Bedwell said.

As Bedwell and organizers sifted through 300 to 400 proposed exhibitions, the mammoth scope of



WELCOME BACK, POTTER: Artist Matthew Hyleck shapes pieces to sell at Baltimore's Tour de Clay.

Clay by the Bay

"It's like a smorgasbord ... you're not going to be able to have a bowl of everything..., but you'll enjoy the meal."

DEBORAH BEDWELL,
ORGANIZER, TOUR DE CLAY

the event became apparent. It will be impossible for any one person to see it all but the Tour de Clay is providing materials on its Web site and elsewhere to help people sort through the shows.

"It's like a smorgasbord," Bedwell said. "You're not going to be able to have a bowl of everything on it, but you'll enjoy the meal."

One exhibition includes works by renowned ceramic artist Richard De Vore, who makes egg-shaped pieces that seem simple at first, but reveal nuance and complexity on closer inspection. Another exhibit spotlights the family of glazes called Shino, which originated in Japan and produce delightful variations in color and texture.

In his workshop across the street from Baltimore Clayworks, artist in residence Matthew Hyleck was hard at work one recent morning. "I'm trying to make as much work as I possibly can. I'm in six different venues throughout the area. ... Right now I'm about as stressed as I get," he said. BEN NUCKOLS (AP)

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Business

Chains Merge

The Post's **MICHAEL BARBARO** was online Monday to discuss Hecht's and Lord & Taylor's sale to Federated Department Stores | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

It doesn't make any sense to me why Federated would eventually change all of their stores to Macy's. If they used all of the clothing lines and services of Macy's and kept the Hecht's name, how much money would they lose?

There are a couple of good reasons (Federated believes) to convert Hecht's stores into Macy's. First, operating a national department store brand saves money. For example, Federated can design and buy the same advertisements around the country, instead of tailoring them for every market. Second, Macy's is a better-known brand nationally. What's more, Macy's is enshrined in movies like "Miracle on 34th Street" and promoted every year in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

What effect will this merger have on luxury stores such as Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue?

It should create a little more competition for these higher-end stores. Neiman and Saks have had this market to themselves for decades. Macy's is more upscale

than Hecht's, so if (as we suspect) Hecht's becomes Macy's, Saks and Neiman could lose business.

Do you believe the growth of Wal-Mart and many of the big-box specialty stores (Linens 'N Things, Home Depot, Borders) have had a negative impact on department stores? I can recall when Macy's had a thriving book department. I don't believe that it exists any more.

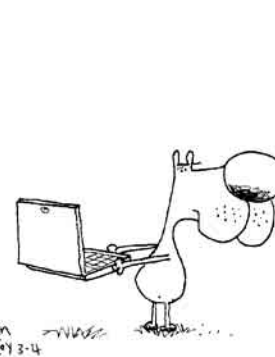
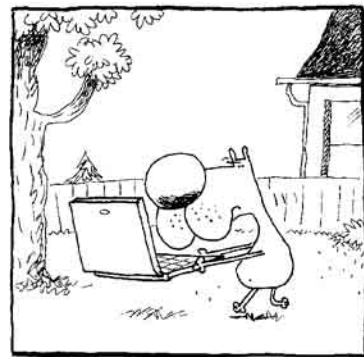
Absolutely. Separately, these specialty stores take small bites out of department stores' markets, and, together, they represent a huge threat. A hundred years ago, everyone bought their suits, furniture and towels at the local department store. Now they split up those purchases between the local discounter, the local home furnishing chain and the niche clothing store.

→ Today on Live Online

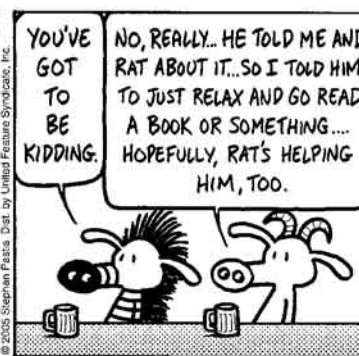
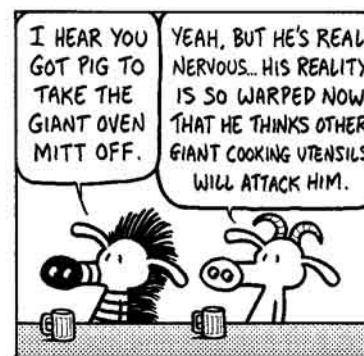
11 A.M.: AARP Associate Legislative Counsel Lisa K. Davis discusses Social Security.

2 P.M.: Silver Spring-native Michael Ealy discusses his co-starring role with Halle Berry in the "Oprah Winfrey Presents" ABC tele-pic, "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



Letters

Print More Positive Stories

AS AN AVID reader of Express, I'm disheartened by the amount of negative criticism I've seen in almost all of your articles for the past few issues. For example, in

Tuesday's edition, the "Look Out" section called Gwen Stefani an "event whore." That was a bit too extreme, don't you think? Try printing 80 percent positive stories and only 20 percent negative from now on. Don't you want to keep readers reading?

—CLARISE JONES
Washington, D.C.

Correction:

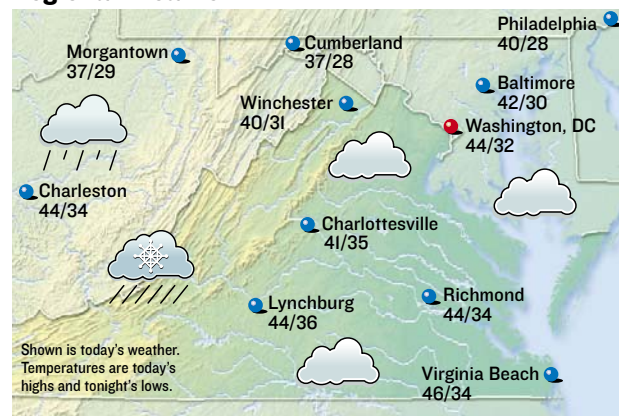
The story on Mötley Crüe in Thursday's Weekend Pass section ("Sin City") incorrectly identified Tommy Lee's role in the group. He's the drummer. It also misidentified the band's guitarist, Mick Mars.

✦ **Write to us:** Do you have something to say about events in the news or a story in today's newspaper? Drop us a line at inbox@readexpress.com

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
44°	32°	46° / 32°	46° / 34°	50° / 36°	44° / 30°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	37°
Low	25°
Normal high	51°
Normal low	34°
Average humidity	38%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.33"
Year to date	4.94"
Last year to date	3.79"
Normal year to date	6.17"

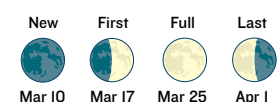
For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

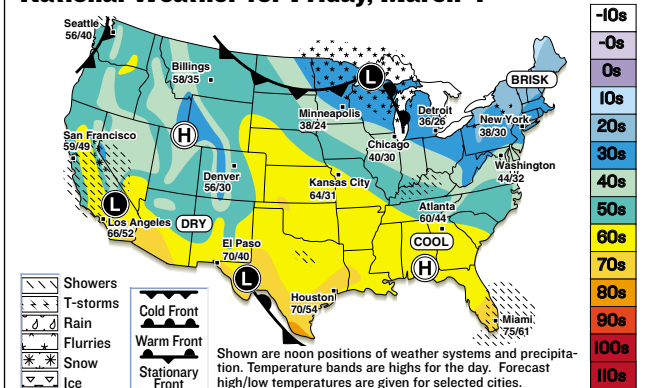
D.C. Metro: Today, increasingly cloudy, less wind. High 44. Wind west-southwest 8-15 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 32. Wind variable under 8 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	6:36 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:04 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:21 a.m.
Moonset today	11:20 a.m.



National Weather for Friday, March 4



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	60/44/s	62/37/sh
Boston	35/24/pc	35/24/pc
Chicago	40/30/pc	38/28/sf
Dallas	62/48/t	66/46/pc
Denver	56/30/pc	58/32/pc
Honolulu	82/69/s	80/65/sh
Los Angeles	66/52/t	66/52/t
Miami	75/61/r	78/58/pc
New York City	38/30/pc	38/30/sf
Orlando	68/50/r	75/52/pc
Seattle	56/40/sh	56/40/pc

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	35/34/sn	35/25/sn
Athens	54/47/pc	64/55/r
Berlin	29/16/pc	27/13/pc
Buenos Aires	86/70/s	88/70/pc
Calgary	55/31/pc	52/29/pc
Dublin	46/32/sh	45/30/pc
Geneva	32/27/sn	31/29/sn
Moscow	23/12/c	23/18/sn
Rome	52/39/r	50/37/pc
Sydney	88/67/pc	83/55/t
Tokyo	44/35/r	43/32/c

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

LOOK out

People

SPLITS

They Remain Good Friends, But Eye Contact Is Out

KATIE HOLMES and **CHRIS KLEIN** have split and scrapped their marriage plans, *Us Weekly* reports. "They broke off the engagement but are remaining good friends," the magazine quotes a publicist for Holmes as saying in the issue on newsstands Friday. Leslie Sloane Zelnick, who represents Holmes but was not quoted by *Us Weekly*, confirmed the report Thursday. The couple became engaged in December 2003 after five years of dating. Holmes will co-star with Christian Bale in this summer's "Batman Begins." (AP)



After "Dawson's Creek," Katie was inexplicably drawn to large foreheads.



ALBERT FERREIRA/REUTERS

JENNY FROM THE BLOCK

Here We Go Again

JENNIFER LOPEZ gave a spirited performance of songs from "Rebirth" on NBC's "Today" show Thursday. She's amazed to find she still has a recording career, she told the Associated Press. "I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would even be doing this this long ... I mean, you just feel lucky to make one record in this business," she said. (AP)

REJECTION

Mel: Don't Pray With Me

MEL GIBSON took the witness stand Thursday to testify against a man accused of stalking him. Gibson told the jury that he feared for the safety of his wife and children after being confronted by Zack Sinclair,

saying the man "doesn't appear to know his boundaries." Testifying in Van Nuys Superior Court, he recounted an encounter with Sinclair, who showed up at a chapel where Gibson



attends services. Gibson said he got up, and when he returned Sinclair was in his seat. "Hi, I'm here to pray with you," said Sinclair. "My wife was upset and worried. She didn't want to find him in the living room drinking tea," Gibson explained. (AP)

SPLITS

'Charlie, You Look Too Much Like Your Dad. It's Creepy'

DENISE RICHARDS has filed for divorce from her actor-husband **CHARLIE SHEEN**, citing irreconcilable differences, according to court papers filed Wednesday. Richards, 34, is six months pregnant with their second child. They also have a daughter, Sam, who will be a year old next week. They began dating after Richards guest-starred on "Spin City." The marriage was Sheen's second and Richards'



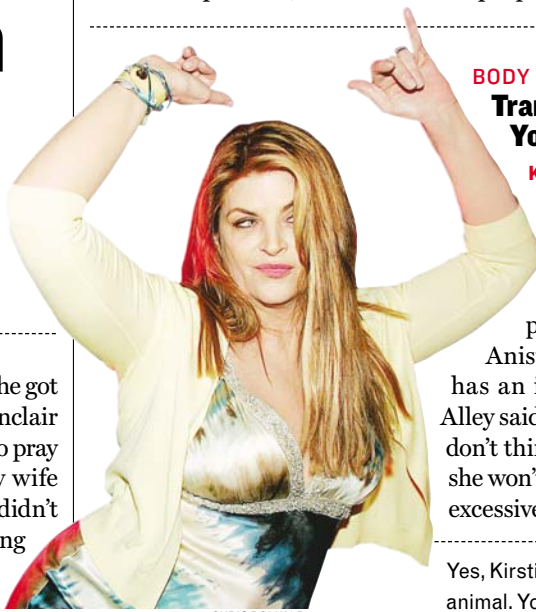
Looking back, they were always teetering on the very brink of destruction.

CONCEPTS

The Reality Show as a Weapon of Truth. Hmmm

LINDSAY LOHAN says her father has no right to claim a share of her earnings. "He didn't do anything for my career except go out and not come home at night," Lohan told *W* magazine in its April issue, on newsstands

Friday. "So I don't think he deserves anything. He doesn't even deserve my respect." Lohan's father has said he wants to do a reality TV show that would follow the family through the course of the divorce. "As sick as it sounds, a reality show might help, actually," Lohan said. "At least then people could get the truth." (AP)



CHRIS POLK/AP

BODY IMAGE

Translation: Jen, You're a Husky Lass

KIRSTIE ALLEY, fighting the battle of the bulge, has a role model in mind. "I like the healthy thin side, that's what I admire in others. A perfect example is Jennifer Aniston," said Alley. "I think she has an incredibly beautiful body," Alley said. "I think she looks healthy. I don't think it's too skinny." Alley said she won't let herself be pressured into excessive thinness. (AP)

Yes, Kirstie, you're a craaaazzy party animal. You can stop acting out now.

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1789

On March 4, the Constitution went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York (the lawmakers adjourned for lack of a quorum); also, in 1902, the American Automobile Association was founded.

Fruit Picker | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

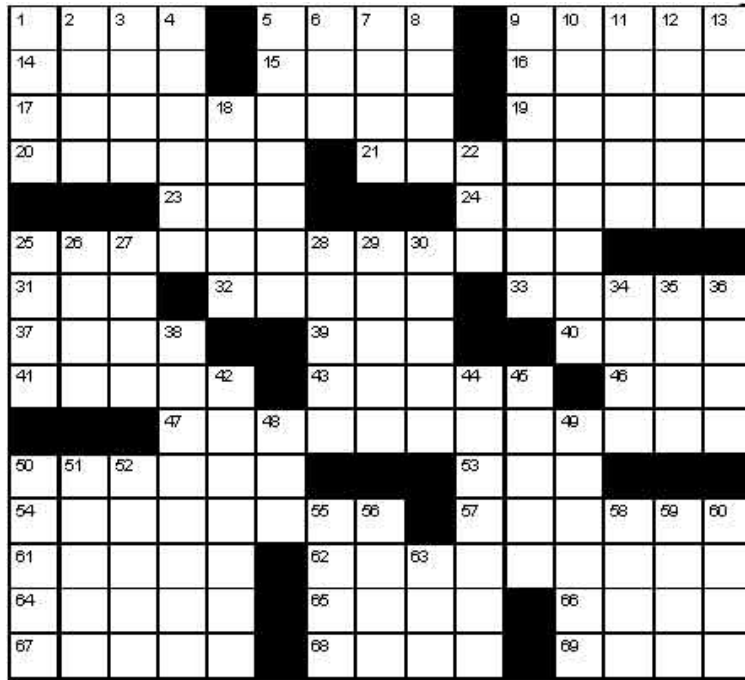
1 Get it out to go faster
5 Name in old radio shows
9 Cynically callous
14 "Do I dare to ____ peach?" (T.S. Eliot)
15 Bering Sea port
16 Atlanta institution
17 Fruity dog?
19 King of the long ball
20 Veteran
21 Raymond Burr role
23 Continental prefix
24 Uses impertinent language
25 Fruity teen burden?
31 Tognazzi or Foscolo
32 There's no accounting for it
33 Madrid museum
37 Fabricate
39 Fa follower
40 Narrow peninsula
41 Choice invitees
43 "Aunt ____ Cope Book"
46 Famous Japanese-American
47 Fruity TV executive?
50 Arctic pullover
53 Brick road, perhaps
54 Romantic place to sit
57 Sophia's

homeland

61 Anabaptist sect
62 Fruity rockers?
64 Clerical quarters
65 Shrinking inland sea
66 Future attorney's exam
67 Three-part treats
68 Old Bologna bread?
69 Renowned architect Saarinen

DOWN

1 Block used for small structures
2 Shakespeare's Suffolk, for one
3 Just ____ (very little)
4 Nattily attired
5 Principality in the Pyrenees
6 Wingless, extinct bird
7 Prefix for science
8 Carnac the Mag-nificent, for one
9 "Human Concretion" sculptor
10 Billionaires in the making, e.g.
11 Rock's opposite, often
12 Disappear slowly but surely
13 Force units
18 Cease being dormant
22 Big Ten sch.
25 Fast feline
26 It's all the same to moi?
27 Golfer Isao



28 Krupp Works city
29 Mom-and-pop enterprise
30 Historic march site
34 Footless creature
35 Fender nick
36 Platte River tribe
38 Strong steam-brewed coffee
42 Condemns as worthless
44 It may be genuine
45 A deadly sin
48 Tiny Tim's prop
49 Make possible
50 Last stand of 1836
51 Baseball star Garciaparra
52 Like mutton
55 "C'mon, be ____" (help me out)
56 "Desperate Housewives" star Hatcher
58 Gamble badly
59 8th month of the Jewish calendar
60 Regarding, in legalese
63 River leading to the Rhine

Yesterday's Solution



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You are in the mood for love — not simply empty romance. Your capacity for greater feelings is on the rise.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You don't want to be aware of the magic that goes into your day, but you may at the same time wish to play a more central role.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may be easily influenced to change your mind — even where major issues and personal

projects are concerned. Use caution.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You are likely to have the advantage over your closest competitors. This doesn't mean you'll surge ahead, but the race is far from over.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You're in no mood to commit to something that is unclear. Take the time to assess your potential and the likelihood of a mishap.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may be running hot and cold all day long. You had best warn those closest to you that you're not always to be patient or understanding.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your mastery of language can serve you well as you attempt to sway those who have been on the other side for some time. Keep at it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may be

tempted to engage in secret, clandestine affairs that appeal to your impulsive side but which may prove dangerous in the end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're in the mood for a dream to come true — and if you leave it in the hands of that special someone, you won't be disappointed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may be passionate and emotional about even the most trivial or routine events. A close friend is able to calm you down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your appeal is on the rise, especially among those who have been sharp critics. The tide is turning in your favor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Don't expect too much in the way of special favors. Others are looking out for themselves just as you are.

express

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